

# THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 163, Vol. VII.

Saturday, February 10, 1866.

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{ Stamped, Fivepence.

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Lytton's Lost Tales of Miletus.	Scientific Notes.
Classical Manuals.	Proceedings of Foreign Academies.
Ewing's Memoir.	Scientific Correspondence:—
New Novels:—	The System of the Universe: An Astronomical Theory, H. Pratt.
Common Sense.	The Late Professor Schröder van der Kolk, W. D. Moore.
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The Marquis D'Azeglio.	MUSIC:—
ANDREW MARVELL.	The Crystal Palace Concerts.
MISCELLANEA	Musical Notes.

LONDON: 24 TAVISTOCK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

**ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS.**—HENRY O'NEIL, Esq., A.R.A., will DELIVER FOUR LECTURES ON PAINTING, on the Evenings of MONDAY, the 12th, 19th, and 26th FEBRUARY, and the 5th MARCH. The Lectures commence at Eight o'clock precisely.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Secretary.

**ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS.**—Professor WESTMACOTT, R.A., will DELIVER a COURSE OF SIX LECTURES ON SCULPTURE, on the Evenings of THURSDAY, the 15th and 22nd of FEBRUARY, and the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd of MARCH. The Lectures commence at Eight o'clock precisely.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Secretary.

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WALTER SEVERN, } Hon. Secs.  
GEORGE L. HALL, }

**GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.**—The ANNIVERSARY MEETING of this Society will be held at the Society's Apartments, SOMERSET HOUSE, on FRIDAY, February 10, at One o'clock; and the ANNUAL DINNER will take place the same Evening at WILLIS'S ROOMS, King Street, St. James's, at Six o'clock. Members and Visitors intending to dine are requested to leave their names at the Society's Apartments or at Willis's Rooms.

**ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES,** Jermyn Street.—Professor RAMSAY, F.R.S., will COMMENCE a COURSE OF THIRTY LECTURES ON GEOLOGY on TUESDAY next, FEBRUARY 13, at Two o'clock, to be continued on each succeeding Wednesday, Thursday, Monday, and Tuesday, at the same hour. Fee for the Course, £3.

TRENHAM REEKS, Registrar.

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Chairman—Right Hon. JOHN ROBERT MOWBRAY, M.P.  
Deputy-Chairmen, { WILLIAM BOWMAN, Esq., F.R.S.  
                              { SIR CHARLES LOCOCK, Bart., F.R.S.

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Tables of Rates, Forms of Proposal, and the Report just issued, can be obtained of any of the Society's Agents, or of

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## ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

NEW YORK SECTION.

NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN that the Sum set apart for the Redemption of Bonds under the operation of the Sinking Fund has been applied to the purchase of the undermentioned BONDS of the NEW YORK SECTION of the said Railway—

Dols.	
Bonds, Nos. 291, 416, 591, 761, and 766; Five Bonds of 1,000 dols. each .....	5,000
Bonds, Nos. 816, 818, 819, 823, 824, 879, 881, 1,131, 1,132, and 1,133; Ten Bonds of 500 dols. each .....	5,000
	10,000

Notice is further given that the said Bonds, together with the Half-Yearly Coupons, or Interest Warrants from July 1, 1866, to July 1, 1879, both inclusive, attached to each of such Bonds respectively, have been this day cancelled by the undersigned Notary.

London, February 2, 1866.

W. GRAIN, Notary Public.

## SHORTHAND.—PITMAN'S PHONOGRAPHY.—PHONOGRAPHY is TAUGHT in Class at 7s. 6d.; or Private Instruction given personally, or by post, for 1s. 1s. the Perfect Course of Lessons.

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# THE READER.

10 FEBRUARY, 1866.

## LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £1,875,000, in 37,500 Shares of £50 each.  
PAID-UP CAPITAL, £750,000. RESERVE FUND, £250,000.

### DIRECTORS.

Nathaniel Alexander, Esq. John Fleming, Esq., M.P.  
Thomas Tyringham Bernard, Esq. Frederick Harrison, Esq.  
Philip Patton Blyth, Esq. Edward John Hutchins, Esq.  
John William Burmester, Esq. William Champion Jones, Esq.  
Coles Child, Esq. William Lee, Esq., M.P.  
William Nicol, Esq.

GENERAL MANAGER—William M'Kewan, Esq.

ASSISTANT-GENERAL MANAGER—William Howard, Esq.

CHIEF INSPECTOR—W. J. Norfolk, Esq.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT—James Gray, Esq.

INSPECTORS OF BRANCHES—H. J. Lemon, Esq., & C. Sherring, Esq.

SECRETARY—F. Clappison, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—21 Lombard Street.

At the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Proprietors, held on Thursday, the 1st February, 1866, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, the following Report for the Year ending the 31st December, 1865, was read by the Secretary.

WILLIAM NICOL, Esq., in the Chair.

### REPORT.

The Directors have the satisfaction to submit to the Proprietors the Balance Sheet of the Bank for the Half-Year ending 31st December last.

They have to report that, after the payment of all charges, interest to customers, and making ample provision for bad and doubtful debts, the net profits amount to £99,419 13s., which, added to £13,000 7s., brought forward from the last account, produces a total of £112,000.

From this sum a special Bonus, amounting to £4,514 17s. 11d., has been presented to officers whose salaries are under £300 per annum, leaving £108,265 2s. 1d. for appropriation.

The Directors recommended the payment of the usual Dividend of 6 per Cent., with a Bonus of 6 per Cent., making together 12 per Cent. for the Half-Year, which will amount to £93,737 3s. 3d. This, added to the August Dividend, will be 27 per Cent. for the Year, and leave £14,527 18s. 10d. to be carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account.

They have to announce the retirement in December of John Wright, Esq., for many years an Auditor.

The Directors retiring by rotation are—

Coles Child, Esq., and  
Frederick Harrison, Esq.,

who, being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

The Dividend and Bonus (together £2 10s. per Share), free of Income-tax, will be payable at the Head Office or at any of the Branches, on and after Monday, the 12th inst.

### BALANCE-SHEET OF THE LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY, December 31, 1865.

Dr.		
To Capital paid up.....	£750,000	0 0
To Reserve Fund.....	250,000	0 0
To Amount due by the Bank for Customers' Balances, &c....	£11,842,748	5 10
To Liabilities on Acceptances...	1,009,066	14 5
	12,851,815	0 3
To Profit and Loss Balance brought from last account...	13,060	7 0
To Gross Profit for the Half-year, after making Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts....	321,200	1 6
	334,950	8 6
	£14,186,774	8 9

### Cr.

By Cash on Hand at Head Office and Branches.....	£1,510,427	12 4
By Cash placed at Call and at Notice.....	1,307,564	12 4
	£2,907,992	4 8
Investments, viz. :—		
By Government and Guaranteed Stocks.....	1,033,170	8 8
By other Stocks and Securities...	108,310	17 8
	1,141,481	6 4
By Discounted Bills, and Advances to Customers in Town and Country.....	9,819,085	12 6
By Freehold Premises in Lombard Street and Nicholas Lane, Freehold and Leasehold Property at the Branches, with Fixtures and Fittings.....	137,179	12 9
By Interest paid to Customers.....	85,658	7 0
By Salaries and all other Expenses at Head Office and Branches, including Income-tax on Profits and Salaries.....	90,502	7 5
By Special Bonus on Salaries under £300 per annum.....	4,514	17 11
	£14,180,774	8 9

### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		
To Interest paid to Customers.....	£85,658	7 2
To Expenses, as above.....	90,502	7 5
To Special Bonus on Salaries under £300 per annum.....	4,514	17 11
To Rebate on Bills not due, carried to New Account.....	45,658	13 11
To Dividend of 6 per Cent. for the Half-Year.....	44,993	16 9
To Bonus of 6 per Cent.....	48,743	6 6
To Balance carried forward.....	14,527	18 10
	£334,950	8 6

### Cr.

By Balance brought forward from Last Account.....	£13,060	7 0
By Gross Profit for the Half-Year, after making Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts.....	321,200	1 6
	£334,950	8 6

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing Balance-sheet, and have found the same to be correct.

(Signed) WILLIAM NORMAN, Auditors.  
R. H. SWAINE,

London and County Bank, 25th January, 1866.

The foregoing Report having been read by the Secretary, the following Resolutions were proposed and unanimously adopted:—

1. That the Report be received and adopted, and printed for the use of the Shareholders.
2. That a Dividend of 6 per Cent., together with a bonus of 6 per Cent., both free of income-tax, be declared for the half-year, ending 31st December, 1865, payable on and after Monday, the 12th inst., and that the balance of £14,527 18s. 10d. be carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account.
3. That Coles Child, Esq., be re-elected a Director of this Company; that Frederick Harrison, Esq., be re-elected a Director of this Company.

4. That William Norman and Richard Hinds Swaine, Esqs., be elected Auditors for the current year.
5. That Robert Escombe, Esq., be elected an Auditor for the current year.
6. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Board of Directors for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Company.
7. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Auditors of the Company for their services during the past year.
8. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to William M'Kewan, Esq., and to the principal and other officers of the Bank, for the zeal and ability with which they have discharged their respective duties.

(Signed)

W. NICOL, Chairman.

The Chairman having quitted the chair, it was resolved, and carried unanimously,

9. That the cordial thanks of this meeting be presented to William Nicol, Esq., for his able and courteous conduct in the chair.

(Signed)

W. CHAMPION JONES, Deputy-Chairman.

(Extracted from the Minutes.)

(Signed)

F. CLAPPISON, Secretary.

## LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a DIVIDEND on the Capital Stock of the Company, at the rate of Six per Cent. for the half-year ending 31st December, 1865, with a BONUS of Six and a-half per Cent., will be PAID to the Proprietors, either at the Head-Office, 21 Lombard Street, or at any of the Company's Branch Banks, on and after MONDAY, the 12th inst.

By Order of the Board,

W. M'KEWAN, General Manager.

21 Lombard Street, Feb. 2, 1866.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

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### THE AGAMEMNON.

*The Agamemnon of Æschylus, and the Bacchanals of Euripides, &c.* Translated by Henry Hart Milman, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's. (John Murray.)

IF Æschylus is the greatest, he is beyond doubt the most difficult of the Greek tragic poets. Indeed, his obscurity is, necessarily, inseparable from his grandeur. The very themes which he chose, and the subjects upon which he delighted to dwell were, of their own nature, mysterious, and hard to comprehend. The gradual fulfilment of enigmatically-uttered curses, the dim warnings contained in omens and in dreams, the unseen links which bind the living to the dead, the unknown and unknowable laws which decree that iniquity and pride shall be visited with vengeance and abasement, form the centre points of interest in his works. The gloom of his imagination clings to the language in which his conceptions are clothed; often his expressions will admit of at least a double interpretation; he studies indirectness, and is at all times so replete with dim allusions, that one passage can only be fully understood when it is illustrated by many others. Nor is this all. He revels in a superabundance of imagery and metaphor, almost more Oriental than Greek. He has a passion for personification of abstract qualities; while his diction is invariably so gorgeously grandiloquent, that the mind is constantly puzzled, if not pained with the effort to discover what is necessary for his meaning, and what is to be attributed to the overflowings of an inspired tongue. When we add to this the frequent ellipses of an impetuous pen, which commentators have endeavoured to supply with conjectures innumerable, it is sufficiently obvious that in a translator of Æschylus we must look for either one of two things—no ordinary ability, or boundless self-confidence. It is not every scholar who possesses qualities which would enable him to understand, and a vocabulary to express adequately in his native tongue, the full significance of the utterances which come from the Muse of Athenian Tragedy in the Trilogy of the Oresteia. It is not enough for him to be a critic and grammarian; he must be a poet besides. Nor, on the other hand, will any amount of poetical fervour and enthusiasm avail, unless he is versed in Greek philology and literature as well. The consciousness that the task is no light one seems to have preserved the dramas of Æschylus from being mutilated to the same extent as most other classical authors by the crowd of gentlemen who translate with ease. During the present season, two English metrical versions of the Agamemnon have, if we mistake not, appeared—that by Miss Swanwick, who translates the Trilogy; and that now before us, by Dr. Milman. Judged by the standard which we have already mentioned, what higher qualifications could be needed than those of the Dean of St. Paul's? from whom could we better expect a translation, as far as might be, perfect?

Dr. Milman has succeeded in combining, for the most part, accuracy of scholarship with elegance of expression; but there is nothing of surprising power in what he has given us. If at times he can be highly poetical, he can also be exceedingly tame; consequently his translation is markedly unequal. The letter of the original is reproduced rather than the spirit. We are well aware of the immense disadvantages under which the translator labours, and especially in the case of such a play as the Agamemnon—so much of the effect is due to the compressed force of a few brief words, and to etymological associations only intelligible in the Greek. In many instances it is impossible to preserve the terseness of the original and to be sufficiently lucid; while, on the other hand, paraphrase cannot but enervate. Dr. Milman very properly censures this tendency in his predecessor, Mr. Symmons, who, while

often faultless in his choice of language, is seldom able to refrain from diluting the pregnant metaphors of Æschylus. But, when an effort is made at reproducing some one nervous and emphatic word, care must be taken lest, in the midst of anxiety to discover an exact English equivalent, a portion of the sense of the original is not sacrificed. Now, Dean Milman more than once, when labouring to be brief, becomes defective or obscure. "Unfeminine" by no means adequately calls up the idea conveyed in the original *ἀνδρόβουλον*. Miss Swanwick, it is true, develops two words into a whole line—A woman's heart, with manly counsel fraught; but she, at least, reproduces a thought that does not appear in the Dean's version. Again: let us look at verse 553:—

τί τοὺς ἀναλωθέντας ἐν ψήφῳ λέγειν.

Dr. Milman renders this:—

Why count the suffrages of those who have fallen?

an interpretation which is, in our opinion, neither natural nor elegant. Here, too, we may compare the version of the lady translator:—

Why call the spectral army roll?

Such instances as these may not perhaps be grave defects, but they are at least flaws in workmanship, and, as such, mar the appearance of the final result. Dean Milman is far from happy in his blank verse; it is, too frequently, halting, unmusical, and bald; as, for instance—

Shrieking their dreary tale through the bare chambers.

Such was the warning—warning that deceived not.

In his rendering of the dialogue between the Chorus and the Herald (vv. 520-531), the point is not brought out with sufficient emphasis; there is nothing of the suddenness and vagueness of the original. In many of the most vigorous portions of the play, the Dean seems to us to have failed. Perhaps the Agamemnon contains nothing more powerfully wrought up than the meeting between Clytemnestra and her victorious lord, fresh come from Troy. The queen, intoxicated with her guilty love, and waiting eagerly for the time when the blood of her lawful husband shall be shed, assumes, in her language, a strange union of real excitement and artificial bombast. There is a perilous extravagance in all she does or says—in her speeches, in which she discloses to the public ear the sufferings she experienced while her lord was away, and in the pomp with which she hastens to receive him now that he has once more returned. All this is not sufficiently striking in the volume before us; the Dean's lines drag heavily; they convey no sense of a mind over-wrought almost to madness, panting to crown one sin by another more terrible still. The translation which he gives of the passage commencing *ἔστιν θάλασσα κ. τ. λ.* will serve to illustrate our meaning:—

Who shall go quench the prodigal sea, that still  
Teems with bright purple, worth its weight in  
silver,

The ever-fresh and never-fading dye  
That keeps our robes in everlasting colours.

We prefer Miss Swanwick's—

A sea we have (which who may drain?) that  
breeds  
Abundant purple, fresh from many a shell,  
Precious as silver, brilliant dye of robes.

Dr. Milman thinks that he can only sufficiently express the force of the words *ἐς δ' ὦμ' αἰλπτον* by a process of repetition:—

That justice to his house may lead him in—  
The house he little dreamed of.

We question whether "the terrible ambiguity" of the epithet would have been less prominent had the six words been replaced by the simple "unlooked for;" the fact that it stood first in the line would have been enough.

Nothing, however, could be happier than

the following rendering of a much-disputed passage:—

Then "he was dead," so swelled and grew  
the tale,  
A second triple-bodied Geryon he—  
(Of Geryon I speak living on earth,  
Not Geryon in the infernal realms below)—  
Three deaths had suffered in his threefold  
form,  
And thence been wrapped in a winding-  
sheet of earth.

But Dean Milman is, on the whole, most successful when he translates the choral odes into lyrical verse; and these in the Agamemnon are as essential to the drama as the senarii themselves. The Chorus is, in fact, the life and soul of the plot; without it we should be powerless to understand what in reality is the meaning of the poet. It is composed of no mere impartial observers, but abounds in thoughts and reflections which rise from the soul of Æschylus himself. It would, indeed, seem that he could find no adequate vent, in the course of the ordinary dialogue, for the gloomy forebodings and mystical conceptions that crowded upon him, as he contemplated the terrible tragedy on which he had chosen to exercise his genius. Thus, it is in these odes that he appears to us in all his individuality. The work of the translator here becomes doubly difficult. It is more necessary than ever that the elegance and vigour of expression in the original should be preserved; and how is this to be done? Here again we must once more express our opinion that in the Dean's version there is too much dilution. Occasionally he gives us one or two singularly felicitous touches; but our general feeling is that we are reading rather pleasing English verse, than a faithful rendering of the grandest of Greek tragedians. We will take an instance which shows Dr. Milman at his best:—

For soon in Troy her coming seemed to be  
Like gentle calm over the waveless sea;  
She stood, an image of bright wealth untold.  
Oblique from her soft eye the dart  
Preyed sweetly on the inmost heart,  
Making love's flower its tenderest bloom  
unfold.  
So changing with the changing hours  
That wedlock brought her to a bitter end,  
A cruel sister, and a cruel friend,  
To Priam's daughters in their chamber  
bowers:  
By hospitable Jove sent in his ire  
No tender bride, rather a Fury dark and dire.

Could rhythm be more easy or melodious?  
But now let us glance at the original. Six words: *μαλθακὸν ὀμμάτων βέλος ὀξυθυμὸν ἔρωτος ἄνθος*—find their equivalent in three lines. Miss Swanwick writes:—

The eye's soft arrow, love's soul-piercing  
flower.

Nor by the closeness of her rendering does she lose aught of poetry or grace. Lower down *παρακλίνασα*—a metaphor obviously taken from the race-course—is expanded into "changing with the changing hours." Once again let us have recourse to the lady:—

Swerving aside, ere long she wrought  
To wedlock-hopes a bitter end;  
To Priam's offspring mischief fraught—  
Evil ally, evil friend.

Let us turn to the Chorus, the grandest perhaps that Æschylus ever wrote—*τίπτει μοι τόδ' ἐμπέδως κ. τ. λ.* The first few lines run thus in Dean Milman's version:—

Why, why for evermore,  
With irresistible control,  
Doth still the indwelling Terror hover o'er  
The portent-haunted soul.

*ἐμπέδως* is thus reproduced in "for evermore, with irresistible control;" "indwelling" we do not think a happy equivalent for *προστατήριον*, a word which seems to us rather to convey some such notion as that contained in Hood's line "Fear was my grim Chamberlain."

We cannot, also, but regard it as matter for regret that the Dean has not, in the case of passages proverbially corrupt, stated in a foot-note the reading which he has followed.



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Thus in vv. 401-2 of the second long speech of the Chorus, we should be glad to know which of the numerous existing conjectures was proposed as the original of—

Silent there she stood,  
Too false to honour, too fair to revile ;  
Again, vv. 789-90, we have—  
And in the opposite urn was only Hope,  
Wild grasping with her clenched and unfilled hands.

"Unfilled hands" we can account for by supposing Dr. Milman to read *χειρὲς ὡς πληρωμένης*; but what are we to say to "wild grasping" and "clenched"? Taken as a whole, the best translated of all the choric odes is the first, and especially its concluding lines; we regret that we have not sufficient space to quote them here. As we said before, the version abounds both in scholarship and in poetry; but it is not the poetry of Æschylus. And it may be well asked whether such poetry is capable of reproduction? Is it not as futile an effort to endeavour to translate the "Oresteia," as it would be to hope to satisfactorily present, in some foreign garb, the Hamlet of Shakespeare? Between the Trilogy and the single play, there is, in truth, more than a fancied similarity. Throughout both there reigns a confused Babel sound, amid which, if we listen well, the footfall of Nemesis may still be heard striding on, with a slow and sure step. In both, the development of the action is so hidden, that we can scarcely assign to the various characters the amount of their individual influence in the common work. The difficulty of translating the Agamemnon is still further increased by the constant interpenetration of style and subject. How are we to see Cassandra in a translation as she stands before us in the original? The Poetess, Priestess, and Prophetess, "raging and raving with the God," uttering words of terrible import and terrible truth, seems transferred to a false atmosphere, when her inspired utterances are embodied in a tongue that was not her own. The most perfect translation of this play could at best serve only to remind us of the original; the tones of Æschylus can but be re-echoed very faintly in such a work. Those who are desirous of forming some idea as to what his writings are like, and to whom the doors of the Greek language are closed, will, we fear, read Dean Milman's version in vain.

To the "Bacchanals" we need not now recur, since a close examination into the play has recently appeared in our journal. Euripides is far more easily reproduced than Æschylus, and consequently far better. Some of the shorter translations which the Dean has appended to his volume are exceedingly beautiful; the subjects are lighter, and receive perfect treatment from his hands. An extract from "Apollonius Rhodius" at page 248, and another from "Quintus Calaber," at page 305, on the return of the Greeks, bear ample testimony to Dr. Milman's powers both as a scholar and a poet.

## CHARLES LAMB.

Charles Lamb: His Friends, his Haunts, and his Books. By Percy Fitzgerald. (Bentley.)

HERE we have a peep into the workshop where the finished articles are first rough-hewn and gradually brought to a marketable condition, while we are at the same time permitted to gossip with the workmen. How charming are the native talent and freshness of thought of the workman, talking away as he handles some implement of his trade, his hands seeming rather to follow than to guide the tool? so even the sputter of the pen is turned to account by some delicate sense of humour in the fingers of C—L—. His witticisms are so unexpectedly evolved, we laugh spontaneously, and chuckle over them as though they were our own property; and so they are—once read, never forgotten; "a gain for ever."

Lamb is presented to us in a most amiable point of view, for "during one period of his

life he had no less than three pensioners on his bounty, of whom one was a formal, grey-haired, elderly lady, who had some defect in utterance, and who was a pensioner of his for thirty pounds a-year."

There is something inexpressibly touching in this proof of the gentle, loving disposition of Lamb, when his own malady, which in his latter day made the aid of others necessary to him, is taken into consideration; under such an affliction, wit might very pardonably have been distorted into malicious spite. We find nothing in Lamb's humour to wound the most susceptible.

The description of his wonderful eye and fascinating smile makes him still more a personal friend.

What is the secret by which these masters of our heads subdue our hearts? Is not the power to awaken our sympathy, that key of nature which unlocks all secrets, her gift only to a few of her children at their birth? As we read, we cannot help thinking how often the bright eye must have looked weary, the smile have died away in a groan, and then have together flashed out with some irradiation of humour, dispelling all sense of pain. We have an instance of this in the account of the wasp which stung him. "He gave a cry of agony, but the next moment came the jest." "It was," he said, "a stinging comment on Macbeth, 'By the pricking of my thumbs,' &c. Lamb had far more durable agonies than this to bear in life, but the cheerfulness which conquers pain was seldom wanting. As the greatest men have been stamped by danger's seal, so, amongst the greatest wits, the very darkness of the cloud has made the lightning more brilliant.

It is this mixture of pathos with humour in his writings which makes us smile and sigh with Lamb. It is now many years ago since we first read the works of Elia. Walking out with a school-fellow before dinner in search of early violets, we were left by him absorbed in the book, and entirely forgot to return till dinner was nearly over. We shall never forget the master's quiet smile after he asked why we were late, and had received the book as our silent excuse and given no rebuke. Ever since the violet-bank and springtide sun of April have been united in our memory with the master's smile, and Elia, who thus got us out of our trouble. What his works did for us, we find he himself would have done, as we read, page 161, "One of the most charming instances of his good-nature was agreeing to take charge of a school at the request of a young school-master, 'during the absence of the principal;' and he did so, but gave the boys a holiday."

We must quote one or two more delightful passages from the book. One is a letter, page 145, from which we make a short extract:—

Oh, I am so poorly! I waked it at my cousin's the bookbinders, who is now with God; or, if he is not, it's no fault of mine.

The solemn air, preparing us for the slight profanity, is glorious. Again (p. 185) we have a "notelet":—

Dear Sir,—If convenient, will you allow us house-room on Sunday next? I can sleep anywhere. We were talking of roast shoulder of mutton and onion sauce. But I scorn to prescribe to the hospitalities of mine host!

Compare the following passage with Hood's "Song of the Shirt":—

How beautiful to a genuine lover of reading are the sullied leaves and worn-out appearance, nay, the very odour, beyond Russia, if we would not forget kind feelings in fastidiousness, of an old "circulating library 'Tom Jones,' or 'Vicar of Wakefield'!"—how they speak of the thousand thumbs that have turned over their pages with delight! of the lone sempstress whom they may have cheered, milliner or harder-working mantua-maker, after her long day's needle toil, running far into midnight, when she has snatched an hour, ill-spaced, from sleep, to steep her cares in spelling out their contents! Who would have them a whit less soiled?

The portraits serve to illustrate the dual

nature of the man. There is one in his youth, gentle and somewhat melancholy; of the others, that forming the frontispiece shows him pregnant with a stroke of humour. In the last, he is apparently listening to some smart saying, and gathering his powers for a *repartee*.

We are thankful to Mr. Fitzgerald for making us renew our acquaintance with Lamb. But the subject is rather beyond him. Much has been written about it, but there still is much to be done. Lamb is one of the first of that long array of clerks, who eke out the small income derived from a penurious firm or Government, by composing other "works" than those which are buried in ledgers and despatches. The first of a series is generally the best; and always the most interesting. But Lamb has many other claims. We shall see another Dickens, and another Thackeray long before another Elia appears; and we will do this book the justice to say that it concludes with a comparison between Elia and Dickens, in which the points of similarity and difference are well and briefly put. It is in the country, rather than in the town, we suspect, that Lamb now finds admirers. It requires some sort of dreamy apathy to enter into his good-natured despair; some sneaking idea that long whist might after all be the best game of the two; some contempt for luxury, and a firm, but unspoken conviction that true sociality has disappeared with tallow-candles and deal tables. Nor can we help lamenting over the decay of practical jokes, and delicate personalities. Partners may have dirty hands, but we cannot tell them how "we wish dirt were trumps." Sources of wit are revealed at every line which are for ever dried up; fountains of Marah, only to be sweetened with the herbs thrown in by one who stands unique as a magician. The meekest of men can sometimes bear the sternest of messages, and the wit which leaves no sting is worth no more than the honied accumulations of a drone.

## MATHEMATICS FOR MIDDLE-CLASS SCHOOLS.

Barnard Smith's *Arithmetic and Algebra*;—Brook Smith's *Arithmetic*;—Todhunter's *Euclid, Algebra, and Trigonometry*;—Jones and Cheyne's *Algebraical Exercises*;—Droze's *Geometrical Conics*. (Macmillan and Co., Cambridge.)

*Euclid*. By R. Potts, M.A.;—*Statics and Dynamics*. By H. Goodwin, D.D. (Deighton, Bell, and Co., Cambridge.)

*Arithmetic, Algebra, and Trigonometry*. By Right Rev. J. W. Colenso, D.D.;—*Wharton's Arithmetic and Examples in Algebra*. (Longman and Co., London.)

*Algebra and Trigonometry*. By J. R. Young;—*Euclid's Elements*. By Francis Young. (London: Routledge and Co.)

THE Englishman's birthright of independence has been one of the greatest obstacles to the improvement of the middle-class schools. An inspector could be sent to a National School, or a Commission appointed to examine into the state of Eton, Westminster, or Harrow; but over the multitude of commercial academies and small seminaries no such control could be exercised. Hence was arising, a few years ago, the anomaly that the sons of workmen were often receiving a better education than the sons of their employers. In the National Schools, the masters were submitted to a thorough course of training for their work, the schools were regularly inspected, and every modern improvement of text-books, or of other appliances for teaching, was introduced at once. In the case of the other schools, the master was frequently a man with no previous preparation for his work,—one who had failed, perhaps, in some other pursuit, but having assurance in the inverse ratio to his other qualifications, established a boarding-school, where pupils were to be taught all that pertained to the moral and mental education of young gentlemen. True, if he made himself popular with the boys, fed them well, distri-



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buted prizes freely, and sent flattering reports to the parents, his school would fill; the parents would be pleased, the master satisfied, but the boys suffer.

The natural consequence of all this has been, that the average intellect of the young man behind the counter has barely qualified him to decorate the shop-windows in business hours, and his own person at all times; whilst the young farmer, with money and leisure at his disposal, has no tastes to gratify higher than a love for hunting, shooting, or horse-racing. And when success comes, there results that ignorant pride of purse which is one of the most detestable characteristics of the generation.

Prominent amongst the attempts to remedy the evil of this state of things stand the Local Examinations of the Universities. Many objections have been and are raised against the system, as an inducement to cramming rather than true study; but of the indirect value of the examinations on masters and on the books they must necessarily use, there can be but one opinion. All honour be to the founder of the College of St. Nicholas, with its Lancing, Hurstpierpoint, and Balcombe; and to such men as Earl Fortescue and Prebendary Brereton, who would attack the evil directly by establishing county schools of a higher order; but, until there is hope that such schools will become general, and that the judgment of parents will be so far improved that they will cease to prefer show to utility, and to be dazzled by the prospectus of the first upstart they meet with, we must look for tests which can be applied impartially to all schools alike.

It is doubtless true that "a good school is conducted on entirely different principles from a racing stable," but the remark strikes at the root of all competitive examinations. If these are good, the University scheme is good also. It has, moreover, many peculiar advantages: it does not stand in rivalry to others; it rather supplements them and tests their success; it can also be made co-extensive with the whole range of the schools it is to influence; it places the Universities in their proper position as directors of the education of the country; and, what is directly to the purpose of this article, it is the only scheme which, to any considerable extent, exerts an influence upon the literature of the schools,—it almost necessitates the use of textbooks of a high order, written by eminent men, of great experience in tuition. Such books are the majority of these which we propose to discuss.

Books of arithmetic naturally divide themselves into several classes. The most elementary contain only the four primary rules, no more than is necessary for making or examining a shop-bill. The text of the book is of no great importance; indeed, in the National Schools it is rather recommended, or at least countenanced, that the master should merely use a collection of examples, and give the necessary explanations orally. First the practice of arithmetic, then the theory. "Examples give a quicker impression than arguments." To this class belong the "First Parts," which Mr. Barnard Smith and Mr. Calder publish separately from the rest of their treatises. Mr. Smith's seems very satisfactory; his general method is to state his rule, illustrate it by an example, and then give his reasons for the process; and this he does simply and clearly. The examples on each chapter are numerous and well arranged. Mr. Calder's book is somewhat more abstruse, and his examples not so varied in their character. There is little scope for ingenuity or originality, neither are these always advantageous. We very much doubt the efficacy of the addition-table which he introduces. Like the more common multiplication-table of the same form, it gains in compactness at the expense of being reduced to a table of reference, from which the beginner never learns, so as to remember, a result. Mr. Smith introduces some of the French measures and tables, but leaves the discussion of decimals for his second part; whilst Mr. Calder introduces

decimals, but does not mention the metric system.

The next class will embrace the rest of Mr. Smith's book and those of Dr. Colenso and Mr. Wharton, extending, that is, to the whole of practical or commercial arithmetics taught in schools. Dr. Colenso's is not, we think, so full or so clear as Mr. Smith's; and Mr. Wharton's runs into the extreme of making the examples everything, and leaving the rules almost devoid of explanation or discussion. If this is a fair specimen of the textbooks recognized by the College of Preceptors, we cannot congratulate that body upon its literature.

Passing by the higher commercial books, which deal with the more complex questions of leases, insurances, &c., our other class will consist of those which treat arithmetic as a science, bringing the theory forward prominently, and making the examples illustrative of it. Mr. Calder's is an excellent book of this kind; it contains all that is necessary for boys preparing either for the Middle-Class Examinations or for the Universities. Mr. J. Brook Smith aims at something higher still. He makes the science of arithmetic, as far as it goes, general as algebra itself. The principle is this, establish a rule with respect to certain numbers, as you would a proposition of Euclid with respect to a particular figure, and the proof is general so far as it is independent of the distinguishing properties of the numbers or figure so used. Sometimes this method succeeds admirably. The proof, in Art. 128, that the sum of several multiples of a given number is a multiple of that number, may be taken as a specimen. That the arithmetic proof generally requires more thought and care than the algebraic, is with the author rather an advantage than otherwise. It is scarcely necessary to add that the book is difficult and long. It is too difficult for beginners, and too long for the most advanced pupils. The latter have not, as a rule, time or patience to toil carefully through the theories of numeration and addition, only to reach, after more than thirty pages of hard reading, an array of four general rules for the addition of simple numbers.

Compound proportion, or the double rule of three, has ever been a bugbear in text books. There may be schools in which the unfortunate boys are still taught that of the conditional terms, the principal cause of action, gain or loss, &c., is to be put in the first place; that which denotes time or distance in the second; and the other in the third. . . . If the blank falls, &c., &c. Mr. Barnard Smith has presented us with a modified form of a rule given by W. Jones, Esq., F.R.S. In the edition of Hutton's course of mathematics, edited by Dr. Olinthus Gregory, the original is given with notes of explanation. Mr. Smith has combined five short statements into one very long one, but has not, we think, much improved the rule thereby. After having arranged the lines, we are told to multiply those numbers in one line which represent causes, and those in the other which represent effects, for a dividend; and then the remaining numbers whether arising from causes or effects, or both, for a divisor, and so on. For ourselves, we much prefer Mr. Calder's way of putting the matter. Some examples of the rule are solved by Mr. Brook Smith, under the head of *division*. The results are all integral, and hence the method is perfectly intelligible. One or other of the two last mentioned has been practically adopted by nearly every one of moderate power and originality.

Fortunately for the rising generation, modern text books no longer contain the tare and tret of other days; the mystic alligation, and position single or double. Rules of strange power they seemed once, until the light of algebra dawned upon our sight, and the illusion vanished as a mist of the morning. And then the miscellaneous questions, the recreations of former days:—

When first the marriage knot was tied  
Between my wife and me, &c.

And,

If the third of six were three,  
What would the fourth of twenty be?

All have passed away with the generation that delighted in them, and an utilitarian age knows them not.

Leaving arithmetic for algebra, we pass from the particular to the general, the practical to the theoretical. True, the boundary is not always clearly defined; we may, with Mr. Brook Smith, generalize from a single example as a type; and on the other hand, especially in the elementary parts, the propositions of algebra may be exhibited, as it were, arithmetically, explained by means of examples, rather than proved theoretically. But both these are unnatural: arithmetic philosophically treated becomes unpractical; algebra practically explained is unphilosophical.

Of the larger treatises mentioned at the head of this article, that of Mr. Barnard Smith is distinguished for fulness of illustration, that of Mr. Todhunter for arrangement and literary merit, whilst Wood's Algebra, with the additions it has received from its successive editors, is a somewhat heterogeneous but comprehensive store of algebraical information. Few mathematical subjects can compare with algebra in the extent and variety of its parts and the number of its propositions. Probably, schoolboys very seldom do reflect on such things, but one might well be ready to despair if he should fancy that his future course of reading was to include many subjects of the magnitude of the algebra of Colenso, Todhunter, or Wood. For most boys, the smaller books will suffice.

Lund's Easy Algebra affords a good illustration of the dangers and difficulties which beset the writer of an elementary treatise. He must be simple, clear, and yet conclusive in his proofs; he must, without confusion, introduce sufficient explanations and examples into his text; and must add numerous examples, arranging them carefully and systematically. In the text of Mr. Lund's book, the explanations and examples are so mixed up with the proofs, that it is sometimes scarcely obvious how far the proof of the proposition is independent of the examples given to illustrate its use. The appearance of the pages, too, suggests over-crowding; otherwise the form and size of the book are convenient, and its range of subject well chosen.

Mr. Todhunter's and Mr. Barnard Smith's books will be well received in the schools. The estimation in which their larger works are held in the University is of itself a sufficient guarantee for this.

Bishop Colenso's algebras are perhaps as widely known as any. They partake largely of the faults we have mentioned above as natural to elementary books; they are not so well arranged as others more recently published.

Mr. Young's algebra is below the mark. It is not exactly elementary, but neither is it—nor indeed does it profess to be—a complete treatise. It contains a certain amount of originality, but its chief attraction in the eyes of many will be its price. The introduction to trigonometry which is appended to the book is brief without being elementary. This we think a great mistake. If it were deemed advisable to give a short introduction, this should have been done by omitting the more difficult parts of the subject, rather than by treating all superficially.

In their little collection of algebraical exercises, Messrs. Jones and Cheyne have endeavoured to meet a difficulty pretty generally felt. Boys acquire new ideas, but forget the old. They have, therefore, arranged a series of papers, miscellaneous yet progressive, by which the memory of the early chapters may be retained along with the study of the later. The book is nicely got up, and the arrangement and choice of the questions well adapted to the author's purpose.

Mr. Wharton's collection of examples is of quite a different character. It is simply a mass of questions arranged according to sub-



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jects, with solutions, not always of the best, given. To a man with abundance of time, who requires great practice and much assistance, it will be a great help—to ordinary students it is useless. We should not recommend Mr. Wharton's friends to publish the second part of this work. A comprehensive collection of exercises arranged on Messrs. Jones and Cheyne's plan, to include at once arithmetic, algebra, and trigonometry, might be found extremely useful.

The Elements of Euclid afford very little scope for editorial ingenuity. Mr. Potts has broken up his text into paragraphs,—the form in which the propositions are most conveniently written in an examination, and one which is also, to a certain extent, useful for exhibiting the steps of the argument.

Mr. Todhunter seems to consider these advantages sufficiently secured by careful punctuation; the principal features which distinguish his edition being the invariable presence of the figure on the same page with the text to which it belongs; the progressive arrangement of the examples; and the collection, into an appendix, of problems with solutions: many of the problems thus added have become so well known as to be quoted as freely, and almost as frequently, as Euclid's own propositions.

"Cheap editions" of Euclid are less objectionable than, perhaps, of any other educational books; for, although many are willing to pay a little more to secure the advantages offered by Mr. Potts or Mr. Todhunter, yet with others any one Euclid is like any other, so long as it gives them the pure text of Simson. These will find their taste catered for by Routledge and Co.

Mr. Drew's "Geometrical Conics" increases with each new edition; it is made to include all the conics which, up to the date of its publication, has appeared in the first paper of the "Cambridge Mathematical Tripos." It is consequently longer than might be wished for schools; some of the propositions also are made unnecessarily hard; but, on the whole, the book is a very useful one. In the higher subjects, boys must use the text-books of the University.

We need only say of the books we have mentioned above, that they are Cambridge text-books. Mr. Todhunter's are always well written and systematically arranged. The style of Dean Goodwin's is easy and pleasant; they will, no doubt, be as popular in schools as they already are with the lower honour men at Cambridge. It is of great importance in these days that all educational works should be well written. Abuse of the Queen's English is learned soon enough from the newspapers; our school-books, mathematical or otherwise, should at any rate be free from the blemishes of indifferent composition; they will lose nothing, they will rather gain every way, thereby; and we are happy to be able to add that the popularity of some of those we have been discussing goes far to prove that, even in mathematical books, literary merit is becoming more and more appreciated.

Much has been said and written about the girls' examinations which Cambridge inaugurated last year. We do not intend to enter into the question of their advisability, or to give any opinion as to their ultimate fate; but we do wish them prosperity for the present. We hope they may last long enough—a few years will suffice—to consign to a well-merited oblivion such helps to ignorance as those associated with the names of Mangnall and Guy.

We would not make "blues" of the next female generation, nor would we submit them to the same course of education as the other sex; their instinct, tact, intelligence, or whatever it is that takes the place of the reasoning power in man, may require more delicate treatment; only we do protest against fostering the abuse of all this.

How far such books as we have mentioned are responsible for it, we cannot say; but it is equally difficult to say what end they serve, except that of promoting what is almost worse than mere ignorance, an unreasoning acquaint-

ance with a few disconnected facts out of every subject under heaven.

We may let this subject drop, after expressing further our best wishes that, by means of the same or similar influences, a like fate may attend upon the various manuals which the Misses Brown, Jones, or Robinson have compiled for the edification of society in general, and the young ladies of their own seminaries in particular.

## EARLY ENGLISH TEXTS.

*Merlin, or the Early History of King Arthur:* a Prose Romance ab. 1450-60 A.D. Edited by Henry B. Wheatley. Part I. With an Introduction by D. W. Nash, F.S.A.

*The Monarchie, and other Poems, of Sir David Lyndesay.* Edited by Fitzedward Hall. Part I.

*The Wright's Chaste Wife:* a Merry Tale, by Adam of Cobsam, ab. 1462 A.D. Edited by Frederick J. Furnivall.

THESE are the three publications with which the Early English Text Society winds up the second successful year of its existence. Two of them are from unique MSS. hitherto unnoticed, and the third begins a much needed reprint of the verse of one of Scotland's early poets, with whose text George Chalmers has tampered in his faultful edition of "Lyndesay's Poetical Works," the only one purchasable now-a-days. The texts will be appreciated differently by different readers. Scotchmen, of course, who are said by unfriendly critics to take Poetry, like Music, only through the medium of Scotch airs, will seize on Lyndesay first, and read his discourse on Adam, "that unhappy man;" on Noah's

Ark, quhilk was boith lang and lairge,  
Maid in the bodum lyke one Bairge;

on the monarchy of Ninus, the contemporary of Abraham; of that of the lustie Quene Semiramis, of Cyrus, Cesar, and the ruin of the great fourth monarchy, Jerusalem. They will get, too, a sound denunciation of images and idolatrous practices, and a warning against the evils of pilgrimages.

Ye maryit men that hes trym wantoun wyffis,  
And lusty dochteris of young tender aige,  
Quhose honestie ye suld lufe as your lyffis,  
Permyt thame nocht to passe in pylgramage,  
To seik support at any stok Image;  
For I have wyttin gud wemen passe fra hame,  
Quhilk hes bene trappit with sic lustis rage,  
Hes done retorne boith with gret syn and schame.

The Arthurian, on the other hand, will turn to *Merlin*, and there, for the first time, hear told in English prose the full story that the French-writing Englishmen of Henry the Second or Richard the First's Court made of the traditions—Western, Northern, Welsh, what shall we call them?—that had reached their Norman ears from Pendragon's time. What comparative mythologist will tell us the original brain into which entered that most comical notion of the devils assembled in council in hell,—that they could undo Christ's work on earth by a man begotten as he was said to have been, only using as the impregnator of the second Virgin a demon having sexual powers, instead of the Holy Ghost? How the attempt was made and frustrated, and Merlin, the intended overthrower of Christianity, turned into a preacher of it, Mr. Wheatley's first part tells, with much else of interest to the legend-studier; while Mr. Nash's able prefatory essay shows how two Merlins were confounded into one, and suggests a British tradition preserved by Plutarch as the probable origin of the enchanter's perpetual sleep. The opinion of the author of *Talesin* on these points will have its due weight with scholars.

Those who like a good story will turn to the last of the texts named above, *The Wright's Chaste Wife*. It tells, in a lively way, how a gay young carpenter, unwilling at first to marry, was struck by a widow's beautiful young daughter, proposed, and was wedded. Then he bethought him of improper neighbours who would be trying to seduce his fair bride while he was away at his work

for a week at a time. So he built a most cunning chamber—

With Plaster of Parys that will last,  
put a trap-door in the middle of the floor, and then went away to work, feeling quite safe. His mother-in-law had given him as a portion only a garland of white roses, that would fade whenever his wife turned faithless. This the carpenter wore round his hat; and, naturally enough, the lord he was working for asked him what on earth he'd got it there for. The man told him, and off went the lord to test the truth of the story. The carpenter's wife, after a first repulse, seems to yield to him, takes the 40*l.* he offers her, and sends him rejoicing upstairs; when, lo! down he shoots through the trap-door. He is very angry, and threatens all sorts of vengeance, but the wife won't give him any food till he earns it by spinning flax for her, and he is at last obliged to set to work. The steward and the proctor make similar attempts on the wife's virtue, get similarly served; and there are all three beating flax and spinning hemp when the wright comes home. He, forgiving man, wants his wife to let the lord go free, but she says "Sorrow come on my snowt if I do till I've shown him to his lady;" and so the lady is fetched, and all the culprits are turned out in her sight. It is a story after Chaucer's own heart—would that he could have heard it eighty years earlier, and told it himself. Where the original comes from we should like to know; for though there is one closely corresponding to it in Marathi, and another in Persian, we are assured by a great Sanskritist that it is not in Sanskrit (of the early time, at least); and he suggests that a number of our stories, for which the East now obtains credit, were, in fact, Western in origin, and were taken to the East by the early missionaries and visitors. Many of such tales are certainly contained in a great Tamul collection.

The Society's Report asks for a sufficiently increased subscription to enable it to produce thirteen texts for its annual guinea in 1866, as against the four of 1864, and the eight of 1865; and we think that a body which has done so much so well, in so little time, really has a claim on others besides the men specially interested in our early literature. If the man, whom we all study, is but the outcome of the child, it must be well for us all that the expressions of the child's mind should be made known and accessible to a wide circle of students, who can sum up the results of their investigations for us; and this can only be done by what the early English Text Society aims at—the printing of the whole of our unprinted manuscript literature, for which the society should have an income of a thousand a-year. This year's list contains some of the most valuable treatises in our early literature—the *Ayenbite of Inwytt* (earliest Kentish); the *Cursur o Werld* (Northern); a new Charlemagne Romance; a new Romance of Partenay or Lusignen; the earliest Poem on Husbandry, and the earliest Treatise of Chivalry; those curious books on Middle-Age etiquette and cookery, *The Babees Book* and *The Boks of Norture*; Mirk's *Duties of a Parish Priest*, &c., &c.; and we hope that, as the editors give their knowledge and time gratuitously to the work, the literary public will not leave them without funds to print it. A series of scarce early dictionaries is also announced, the first of which—Levin's Manipulus, 1570—is to appear in 1866.

## CIVILIZED CANOES.

*A Thousand Miles in the Rob-Roy Canoe, on Rivers and Lakes of Europe.* By J. MacGregor, M.A., Trin. Coll., Cambridge. With numerous Illustrations. (Sampson Low & Co.)

IT is a thousand pities Lord Byron did not perform a tour of the kind intimated by the above title. It was all very well for his lordship to sing "Alone, alone, alone, all on the dark, blue sea;" but he always travelled with a very respectable company—respectable, that is, in point of numbers. He liked to have,



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if not friends, at all events dependents, to whom he might whisper, or sing, as the mood took him, that solitude is sweet. But here is a real egotist. He sits in an "elliptic hole fifty-four inches long, and twenty broad," and is so distressed when he finds it will support the additional weight of another Englishman, that he reluctantly comes to a conclusion worthy of Archimedes and Diogenes united, that "the dimensions were unnecessarily large for the displacement required." Economically disposed as he is in everything, he saves even his words, and would have us know once for all that if he ever drops by accident into the mysterious "we," the pronoun is intended to comprise himself and his boat alone; and he can literally rock in this conveyance on the real sea itself, always, of course, within swimmable distance of the shore, and with an eye to effect under the Dover pier-head, or amongst the fat, but well-dressed Ostend bathers.

One Scotch Lord—for may we not call Byron a Scotch Lord?—is sometimes nearly as good as another, and Lord Aberdeen, in a similar boat, proved a better travelling companion, if not so good a shot with the pistol. Mr. Carlyle thinks a naked duke of Windlestraw would produce no effect were he to address a naked House of Lords; but Lord Aberdeen, though in that state of semi-nudity which he who is prepared to swim for it at a moment's notice must always be, could mollify the hearts of porters and railway officials. The boats, at the sound of his name, were taken as traveller's baggage, and not condemned to German luggage trains. Chang carried his coffin along with him, and who knows how soon these mysterious parallelograms the Englishmen will not part from may not answer the same purpose? It was only on such occasions—and they were not many—when any help could be got from Baedeker, or the "indispensable" Bradshaw; and when the Rob Roy, having got as many friendly "casts" on its way as Jeanie Deans, eventually reached Freyburg, there remained no other direction but "to go at once to the source of the Danube." This, of course, is no more likely to be "settled" than the source of the Nile; but Mr. MacGregor "went on each stream from the first point where it could float a canoe;" and we recommend Captain Burton, when he next arrives in the interior of Africa, to follow his example. The good people of Tutlingen crowded the banks of their waterway, much like African savages, and missionaries will rejoice to think they were treated as such forthwith. "Religion" became the topic of conversation, and "Scripture anecdotes and other papers in French and German" were distributed by this uncommissioned apostle "on appropriate occasions." But if the common people received these hints gladly, princes and kings behaved proudly, according to their wont. The spirit of our hero was evidently ruffled when he "plied a vigorous paddle" in presence of the Prince of Wales, who in return only "looked at him from the balcony."

If it were not for cataracts, gliding down rivers would be rather dull work, but those of the Danube are rather too mighty for Searle's canoes. The Reuss and the Aar have quite enough for any amount of adventure. You may be fixed upon a wet fall, or laid up on a dry one, though it is your own fault in either case, but for what else does a boat leave England? Still no man would be so much laughed at on his return to Cambridge, as a man who lost his boat. He never could dare to write his book; a thousand miles out is nothing; they must include the safe return, unless, indeed, you can make a tour in a road locomotive for 700*l.*, and sell it at the same price, to be taken to India. Mr. MacGregor confesses he "likes to be admired," so he dropped safely into the Rhine, with whose "whirlpool" even guide-books could make him familiar, until he came to Basle, and French railways, and French rivers. That he always fraternized with the washerwomen on the banks was a matter of course, with such opportunities

of getting into the confidence of these amphibious ones. But France is scarcely a country to "do" by water. Something of the cockney is necessary to make it the theatre of any unusual exploit, and the Rob Roy showed good taste in merely skimming the Seine. It was also prudent in not again tempting the breakers of the British Channel. The thousand miles had been completed long before this, and "we" had collected matter for a charming little book, and knew when and where to stop.

## FRANZ SCHUBERT.

*Franz Schubert. A Musical Biography, from the German of Dr. Heinrich Kreissle v. Hellborn, by Edward Wilberforce. (Allen & Co.)*

BIOGRAPHIES of authors, painters, and musicians, always have a certain fascination about them. A curiosity to learn the details of the every-day life of those with whom, in a sense, we are already so intimate through their works, a desire (never fully satisfied) to get some inkling of the manner in which the ideas of the poem, the picture, or the symphony were suggested, and a positive pleasure on the part of most of us every-day people in what Thackeray called "the glimpses of the fair Art world," seem to account for the popularity of such books. At any rate, there is no doubt that the lives of musicians are popular in England just at present. We have recently had the biographies of Spohr and Weber, Mozart and Mendelssohn's charming letters, and a kind of romance founded on the life of Beethoven. And now we have before us the history of a composer, some of whose music has been for many years on every pianoforte in the country, but of whom, we believe, very few know anything more than the name. In fact, it was probably a surprise to many even well-educated people to see symphonies, quartets, and overtures by the composer of our old friends the Erl König, the Wanderer, and the Adieu, advertised within the last year or two for performance at concerts. And yet the author of those delightful songs was in truth a most prolific writer, one who scribbled verses, operas, symphonies, and chamber-music, with something like the facility of Mozart, whom Schumann (no mean authority as a critic) thought to be the worthy successor of Beethoven, and whose true fame, according to many judges, rests more upon his larger works than upon those beautiful but slight compositions which are so familiar to us. We confess to having turned to the pages of the work before us with very considerable curiosity, to know what manner of man this Franz Schubert really was. And it is rather a *désillusionnement* when we find that the composer of perhaps the most passionate love songs and the most romantic romances in the world was a little, commonplace, negro-fetured, Viennese schoolmaster, much given to steady drinking, and to the recording in his diary of surely the most inane platitudes that ever were put upon paper. We are bound to say, however, that it is just possible that the biographer may be responsible in part for this very unfavourable picture of his hero. With the materials at his disposal, he may have been able to present no other; but whatever the cause is, the book and the life are together as flat and uninteresting as they well can be. The only salient point which appears is the faculty which Schubert, in common with so many composers of genius, seems to have possessed of hard and rapid work.

Franz Schubert, the son of a schoolmaster, and the youngest of nineteen children, was born in a suburb of Vienna, in the year 1797. The boy was, as regards music, an infant prodigy, and at eleven years of age—having already learnt something of harmony, and being a singer and a performer on the violin, organ, and pianoforte—was taken into the Imperial choir, was gratuitously educated at a free school, and became the pupil in music of Salieri. Here he had every opportunity for developing his talent. Besides the school orchestra, in which symphonies and overtures were per-

formed constantly, his own family were musical, and father and brothers used to perform quartets by the young Franz. At the age of seventeen his voice broke, and having to leave the Court choir, he commenced life as an assistant master in his father's school. He still, however, seems to have gone on studying with Salieri, and found time for the composition of an immense quantity of music of all sorts. A year later, he wrote the song, the "Erl König," which seems to have made his reputation on its public performance six years afterwards, and which is still, probably, the most popular of his works. This wonderful ballad was, we are told, scribbled down impromptu, after he had read the words twice over. Operas, cantatas, and symphonies followed one another in rapid succession, but none, or few, were performed or preserved. After a year or two of trial, Franz seems to have, not unnaturally, tired of school drudgery, and to have set up house with a friend. Although he continued to compose unceasingly, nothing was published, and he does not appear to have, up to this time, made a farthing by his profession. But in 1819 he consented, much against his will, to give lessons in music, and entered the family of Count John Esterhazy as teacher. Here he is said to have fallen in love with one of the daughters of the house, but the young lady was only eleven years of age, and little or no evidence is offered on the subject. Two years afterwards the "Erl King" was published, and in the same year that and two other pieces were publicly performed at an opera concert with success. This was the beginning of his reputation, and for the next few years he was fairly occupied with the composition of music of all kinds. In opera he seems to have been singularly unsuccessful. Setting aside his earlier attempts, "Alfonso and Estrella," composed in 1821, was not performed during Schubert's lifetime, and did not succeed in 1854, when Liszt produced it at Weimar. A musical drama, "Rosamond," fell flat after two or three performances. The opera "Fierrabras," though accepted, was neither paid for nor produced; and an operetta, "War in the Household," was not even accepted, though it has recently been successfully performed. To this period are also to be referred most of the great so-called "cycles" of songs, "Die Schöne Müllerin," and others, which, though little known here, are among the most happy productions of the composer. In 1822 the post of Court organist was offered to him, but declined, and his application a few years later for the place of Vice *Kapellmeister* was unsuccessful. So he seems to have gone on quietly composing, and publishing, and leading his easy-going Viennese life till 1828, when his most important orchestral work—the great Seventh Symphony—was given to the world, and when, for the first and last time, he gave a concert. The programme was exclusively made up of Schubert's own works, and the success was brilliant. In the autumn of the same year he fell sick, and after a few days' illness died, at the age of thirty-two.

We cannot fairly find fault either with the German biographer, or with his English adapter, for not having made the singularly uneventful life we have sketched more attractive. The only question is, whether, as there is so little to say, it was worth saying it at all. Mr. Wilberforce explains, we should say, that he has not only condensed Dr. Kreissle's work (which we have not seen), but that he has sometimes "put in opinions which will not be found in the original, and with which the original author might very possibly disagree." Whether this mode of translation be quite legitimate or not, even with the permission of "selection" given by Dr. Kreissle, may be arguable; but apart from this, Mr. Wilberforce's translation is well and smoothly executed, and the few technicalities are, as is not always the case, apparently rendered correctly. We wish, however, he had written "subject" and "score," instead of "motive" and "partition," and that he



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would give us some equivalent for *kapelle* better than "chapel." The last pages of the book are taken up with an essay by Mr. Wilberforce, on musical biography.

## NEW NOVELS.

*Winifred Bertram, and the World She Lived in.*  
By the Author of "Chronicles of the Schönberg-cotta Family," &c., &c. (T. Nelson & Sons.)

TO chronicle the lives of well-to-do people dwelling in a picturesque suburb of the Metropolis, and to choose out of those luxurious homes a dwelling sufficiently stamped by time and weather to give it a claim to the respectability of age, has been the pleasant task to which the author has set herself in the volume before us. A quaint, red-brick house, weather-stained into tints of beauty, with projections and recesses, balconies, verandahs, bow-windows, and other eccentricities, all adorned with climbing roses, jasmine, and magnolias without, and within a scene of refined enchantment, is selected as the stage of that small world whereon the drama of Winifred Bertram's childhood is displayed to us:—displayed in gentle words of tenderness and love, more true to the ideal than to the real ways of life, with its angularities, odd corners, and queer stumbling-blocks, which come to all. Like the merriment of Christmas on paper, which beguiles us into the belief that the good old time still exists in its pristine gladness and genuine expression of kindly sympathies; so on paper the simplicity and loving innocence of children can be drawn in glowing tints, which, sad to say, will not stand the test of experience. Happy would it be for us, if writing of and recording the incidents which make the history of childhood, we could truthfully, in a picture of the real, show how well each act was consistent with the several stations in which the children are placed. In a book this may be done; on paper it is easy to root out every selfish tendency, by judicious teaching and religious training, until the perfection of the work is made to reward the hand that has moulded the youthful will into subjugation and humility; but in the daily realization of the best theory, how different is the result to the sanguine imagination which has foreshadowed it.

Winifred Bertram is the child of wealthy parents resident in India. She is consigned to the care of her aunt, Mrs. O'Brien, and her own brother Maurice, rector of St. Alphage the Martyr, a young clergyman, so pure, so exalted, and so good, that the child cannot but grow up into excellence under such guidance as his. There were three recipients of Maurice Bertram's counsels—three degrees of comparison as it were in the race after virtue. Winifred, the rich man's child; Grace Leigh, the daughter of a London curate and chaplain to a Workhouse; and little Fan, the child of the street, born and bred in want and misery, but full of love for her sick brother Dan, for whom she craves a sweet-smelling flower from the dainty hands of Winifred, as she saunters idly near the gates of her aunt's beautiful garden. Mrs. O'Brien is a gentle lady, hearing little and knowing less of the cares and sorrows of those very near to, but outside her world; they came to her, "just as the sorrows and crimes of the world came to her heart, artistically made musical and harmonious through the pages of the novel she was reading." Winifred is a reflective child, and "given to analyzing her sensations and sentiments like a little German philosopher."

"Auntie, what did Uncle mean by calling Mr. Vernon *blasé* yesterday? I looked in the French Dictionary, and it said, 'burn't up, consumed,' but that must be a mistake. What did Uncle mean?"

"Little girls should not always want to know what grown up people mean," said Mrs. O'Brien, rather bewildered by this sudden call on her faculties, and anxious to prevent further precocious researches into French dictionaries. "I suppose your Uncle meant that Mr. Vernon seemed rather tired and discontented—looked,

indeed, as if he had come to the end of everything, and cared for nothing."

"I knew the dictionary was absurd," said Winnie, who looked on the dictionary in the light of a natural enemy, without which she should have learned French with as little difficulty as English. "Well, Auntie, if that is what *blasé* means, that is exactly what I am. I am tired of everything. I have come to the end of everything. I was at five parties last week, and every one was duller than the last. I knew beforehand just what would be said and done. And now, this new story-book. It is exactly like the last, only a little altered and done up fresh, as Rosalie alters my wreaths and dresses. I can't think, Auntie, how people go on saying and doing the same things all their lives long. It is always round and round, the same over and over again, and nothing in it. I think the world is dreadfully small and old, Auntie. If that is what *blasé* means, that must be just what Mr. Vernon and I are. We've got to the end of everything, and don't care for anything—only of course, Auntie, its much worse for me than for him, because I'm so much nearer the beginning."

Maurice Bertram, in an allegory of the "Contracting Chamber and Expanding Palace," commences that course of practical teaching which his young sister requires, and after befriending Fan and her brother Dan, introduces Winnie to Grace Leigh, whose character is as lovely as a loving pen can depict. Left while very young to the grinding hardship of narrow means in a London lodging, with a sensitive, high-minded father to cherish, and a wild, fine spirited, brother Harry to educate and subdue, Grace entered on her work as soon as her suffering mother was consigned to the grave. She is a poet in thought and an artist in practice. These two qualifications brighten her life, and she sees things through a medium of light and beauty which sheds its radiance upon her religious faith and enfolds her in a sunbeam.

The mere light and shade of the outline of the houses on a sunny day gave her pleasure; the fresh vegetables and baskets of fruits in the greengrocer's shop were a feast of colour to her; and the blooming of the market gardens on the other side of the river, or even the budding of the leaves in the churchyard, brought all the spring into her heart.

This artist nature is carefully analyzed through many pleasant pages, and her influence upon the other characters of Winifred's world is as salutary as upon the little girl herself. Mrs. O'Brien shakes off her indolent self-indulgence; Lady Catherine Wyse softens the peremptory style which is natural to her when Grace, with her father and brother, are guests at Combe Monachorum; Miss Leavins and Miss Betsy Lovel, two ladies who have for love of the fair child given her all the advantages which their school and instruction could bestow, reap a rich reward when infirmity and other cares press upon them, by the return Grace makes for their affection; little Fan, as the maid-of-all-work to good Mrs. Treherne, the greengrocer's wife, in whose house the curate's family have lived for many years, is cheered and sustained by the tender sympathy of the unselfish maiden, whose thoughts are ever for others and not for herself. Thus those days at Combe Monachorum were to the children—

Each day a life of delight; mornings eager in schemes, noon-tides busy in fulfilment, evenings rich in recollections. Harry growing into a daring manly boy, Grace shaking out the folds of her too careful childhood, and gliding into a joyous happy child. Winifred, on the other side, in her great love and reverence for Grace, beginning to rise from the petted child into the womanly considerateness of Grace, and into that high loving heavenward aim which in Grace unconsciously blended with everything. So all their characters were moulding each other, as loving intercourse does always mould, not into copies of each other, but each into its own perfection.

This class of works of fiction addresses itself to a world of its own, a very large and influential body, and it is therefore no small praise to say that Mrs. Charles, in this tale of "Winifred Bertram," as in her other novels, avoids as much as possible the folly of that ultra-Sabbatical tendency and cant into

which so many writers of so-called religious novels for the young are apt to fall. Two remarkable instances of this cacoethes, strange to say, have recently been furnished by the authors of "Amy Herbert" and "The Heir of Redclyffe." The lady who wrote the first, in a recent book on education, urges upon all parents and teachers the propriety of never laying any book upon a Bible, nor of suffering any other book to remain on the same table when reading the Bible to their children or pupils. She would not appear to include a Noah's Ark perhaps in the prohibition, because in another place she sanctifies the queer collection it contains, by saying that, as the Noah's Ark may be looked upon as a quasi-religious toy, it may be played with on Sundays. The author of "The Heir of Redclyffe" goes a step beyond. "Church work"—that is, the making of altar-cloths, pulpit cushions, and hassocks for reverend knees to kneel upon during public prayer, a labour which some ladies who are given to worsted-work and embroidery delight in—would appear to be a serious business, and therefore, like matrimony we presume, not to be taken in hand unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly. In a recently-commenced story she makes her model parson say, "I am not going to have my cushions chattered, gossiped, and, I am afraid, flirted over." We have faith enough in man, even in such chosen ascetics as grace the platform of Exeter Hall, to doubt the real existence of such a clerical snob; but when such morbid trash is put forth under the name of Miss Yonge or Miss Sewell, whom parents are apt to regard as sound teachers for the young girls of a family, we cannot pass it by without a protest on behalf of the many honest young hearts, whom this kind of semi-oracular teaching is intended to snub and cow into sham and affectation of a respect for church upholstery and decoration, as distinct a violation of the Second Commandment as picture and image worship itself. Our bishops are just now making a stir against the Mariolatry of the Church of Rome. What if Rome should retaliate, and cast our Bibliolatry in our teeth?

"Winifred Bertram" is a well-written moral story, which may be safely placed in the hands of young readers, and which adults, who are fond of pictures of quiet home life, will not fail to relish.

*Alfred Hagart's Household.* By Alexander Smith, Author of "A Summer in Skye." 2 Vols. (A. Strahan.)

NOTHING comes more appropriately to hand than the bread at table to assist and enhance the relish of the more highly-seasoned dishes. In like manner, a simple tale of quiet Scottish country-town life, the characters of which are, though carefully and admirably sketched, but such as one expects to meet with in any similar place, is well enough in the pages of a popular journal like *Good Words*, in which "Alfred Hagart's Household" first appeared piecemeal. In fact, like the bread at table, if one is not called upon to digest the whole at once, the portion provided stimulates the appetite, and when, after a while, another piece is placed before us, it has all the agreeable and pleasant flavour of that necessary concomitant to our meals.

We believe that "Alfred Hagart's Household" has fully served its purpose as such concomitant to the monthly banquet dished up in *Good Words*, and regret, for the author's sake, that it has been re-issued in a separate form. The charm of such papers is the artistic skill of the narrator, and Mr. Smith is entitled to the highest praise for the careful manipulation of the narrative, in which not a single word occurs to destroy the unities, and just sufficient of the Doric of Skye is allowed to crop up to fix the locality of the tale. He may lay claim to rank with Galt and John Brown on his own ground, and with Lessing and Jean Paul Richter abroad, as a delineator of upper middle-class society. The surface is smooth. There is scarcely a ruffle upon it, yet



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the language, which falls in a kind of measured cadence upon the ear, the very essence of good prose-writing, never fatigues, and as we turn over the leaves till we reach the end of a volume, we wonder at the fascination which has led us on. What Horace Walpole, Cowper, and Byron are as letter-writers, Mr. Smith and Dr. John Brown are as chroniclers of domestic life; but letters, however charming, should never be too long, and domestic stories, in which there is scarcely any plot, rarely extend beyond the limits of a magazine article.

*Blackwood's Magazine* takes us on "A Visit to the Big Trees." It is still a moot question among the botanists to what order the *Wellingtonia*, or *Washingtonia gigantea*, as the Americans call them, belongs—if, indeed, they must not form an entire order by themselves. Though these trees, in a tiny exotic form, are now quite familiar to us, yet for thousands of years they have been confined to two small valleys, about fifty miles apart. The "Grandfather of all Trees" never appears to have been seen by civilized man in an upright position. It was destroyed by fire caused by natural means. Its unbroken stem was probably 435 feet high, nearly as lofty as the spire of our most gigantic Gothic cathedrals. Under the title of "Religio Spenseri," an interesting parallel has been drawn between Spenser and Ariosto, not so much as poets, but as witnesses to the religious condition of their respective countries. It is well observed that the "Orlando Furioso" has, by its plot, every claim to be considered a religious poem. Its subject is the defence of Christianity against the Saracen. This is a theme to inspire a true poet. But there was no religion in the days of Ariosto, and hence the desecration of all holiness which shocks us in his stanzas. The subject is well worked out, and illustrated by some very elegant translations into English verse. The writer has studied his subject so much, that we have no doubt he contemplates something more important than a magazine article on the "Scott of the South."

*Mehemet the Kurd: and other Tales from Eastern Sources.* By Charles Wells, Member of the Royal Asiatic Society, Turkish Prizeman of King's College. (Bell & Daldy).—This book differs from all others of the same kind which have been published since the "Arabian Nights," by being a collection of translations of Eastern fictions, and not tales written about the East by Europeans, of which there is an abundance. The principal tale "Mehemet the Kurd," is a translation of an Arabic MS. never before made known to the English public, and is as attractive and rich in its imageries as any of the tales in "The Thousand-and-one Nights," a collection of Oriental tales to which the present volume may be considered as a kind of supplement. The ordinary edition of the "Arabian Nights" however, and the only translation extant until a few years ago, has the disadvantage of being an English version of a French translation of the original Arabic tales, by which much of the richness of the Eastern style is lost. "Mehemet the Kurd," on the contrary, possesses the important recommendation of being translated direct from the Arabic by an orientalist, whose competency is answered for by the fact that some years ago he was awarded a special prize by the Council of King's College for his Oriental attainments. The shorter tales, such as the "Tale of a Skull," "The Wife with Two Husbands," and "The Disputed Maiden," which are of Turkish origin, are also strikingly characteristic and humorous. But an entirely novel feature in the book is a collection of Eastern poems, which as English versions of standard Eastern verses, and not English compositions on Eastern subjects, have a peculiar interest, as the poetry of the Eastern nations, with the exception of the Persian, is almost entirely unknown to English readers. What little Arabic or Turkish poetry has ever penetrated into England has almost always been in the form of a prose paraphrase, but the poems given by Mr. Wells are metrically translated, and while reflecting all the extravagant metaphors, and gorgeous and wild style of the originals, are still fit to take their place in English poetic literature. The short essay on Oriental poetry the author prefixes to the collection contains some rare information, and will be found interesting. A vast amount of wit and wisdom is also comprehended in the

selection made of Turkish proverbs, many of which are exceedingly quaint and amusing.

*Words of Comfort for the Wayfarer, the Weary, the Sick, and the Aged:* Gathered from the Writings of the Wise and Good, with an Introduction, by John Morris. (Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, & Co.; London: Bell & Daldy).—What possible reason there can be for publishing such collections as this in a magnificent volume, with red lines round the pages, and every accessory except engravings to increase splendour and expense, we cannot imagine. The author, if we may call him so, tell us he was in the habit of treasuring and transcribing serious passages from good authors during a long sickness; and was seized with a burning desire "to offer to others something of the comfort I had myself derived from the companionship of my silent acquaintance" on his getting well. The late Bishop of Chester advised him to try and sell his book, instead of giving it away. There is no disputing the soundness of this advice, but we cannot conscientiously recommend any of our readers to buy it.

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

- ARCHER'S REGISTER (The): a Year-book of Facts for 1865. Edited by J. Sharp. Fesp. 8vo. Longmans. 1s. 6d.
- BATEMAN (Charles W., LL.B.). Paradigms of the Conjugation of Greek Verbs. Extracted from Bateman's Edition of Kühner's Elementary Greek Grammar. To which is added Metres of the Greek Plays. 12mo, sd., pp. vi.—53. Kelly (Dublin). Simpkin. 1s.
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- DEARBY'S Illustrated Peerage of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. 1866. Post 8vo, pp. xxxvi.—612. Dean. 7s.
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## CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LATE JOHN GIBSON, R.A.  
To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—I regret to see in the pages of the *Athenæum* a sneering, supercilious, and ignorant attack on the genius of one of the greatest sculptors in Europe. There are plenty of half-educated people, living in cliques, praising their own and each other's feeble works and narrow conceptions, till they really believe that all the world is wrong but themselves. They lay down the law with an assurance which is exactly measured by their ignorance, and condemn every one that they are unable to understand. That men who have none of the petty qualities they so much admire should command the admiration of the world, only makes these poor critics all the more conceited. They are the salt of the earth; the small remnant left of Israel. Like little religious sects, they monopolize the favours of heaven; to them alone has it been given to discern good from evil. Hence the nose in the air, the calm contempt, and the pitying sneer.

Gibson was a mere imitator of obsolete art. Venus has long ceased to be worshipped, and we no longer believe in Cupids or Psyche. It is altogether wrong to make statues of gods and goddesses in whom we have no faith. We have heard this before, and it may perhaps be worth while to answer it. The sculptor studies form; those who do so honestly, soon find out the pre-eminence of the human form over every other; and, in this way, poor Gibson, and every other sculptor since the world began, has been led away by his art into dreadful enormities. They make statues (is it possible to believe it!) of naked women, and call them by Pagan names; and, worse still, they generally make them standing not "at attention," but "at ease."

A knowledge of nature or of art would perhaps confuse him, and we do not wish unnecessarily to interfere with the system of the critic of the *Athenæum*, either in mind or body; but if he had a bath, of course he has a looking-glass. When he came out of the one, if he arranged the other so that he could see his Christian limbs reflected in it, if he would be kind enough to put himself in the attitude he thought most appropriate for a statue—viz., equally balanced on both legs—it might perhaps occur to him that it was wanting in variety as well as beauty. If he pursued his studies still further, he would find that every part of the body was less beautiful and less interesting when it was symmetrically poised than in any other position, and also that variety was far less fatiguing, and more natural as well as more graceful, than a stiff monotony. When he again went to the Crystal Palace, and saw all the statues standing, as he calls it, on one leg and remembered that, unaided by the advice of an *Athenæum* critic, they had to rely on their rude, uncultivated taste alone, and a mistaken, or even a Pagan, view of art and nature, he might perhaps regard their defects with a more forgiving eye. In this way, most of their faults can easily be explained; and this is the worst of enquiry or learning; it unsettles one's opinions, and spoils good criticism, and I ought perhaps to apologize to this critic for also calling his attention to the perennial freshness of certain human ideas, which he regards as dead, for the simple reason that he is dead to them.

When those wretched Greeks, and still worse Romans, worshipped stocks and stones, their poets made allegories not altogether senseless, and their sculptors cut the stocks and stones into forms not altogether ugly. Did either the poets or the sculptors believe in the actual existence of the beings they themselves invented, any more than we do? If faith in the deity or nymph is necessary to the full appreciation of the statue of either one or the other, then those poets who were the authors of mythological stories were, of all people, the least able to understand them; and I am sure the critic of the *Athenæum* cannot be more certain of the mythical character of Cupid and Psyche than Apuleius himself. But the plain fact is, that a perception of the beauty of Pagan, or any other mythology, is wholly independent of any faith in its truth; and our critic's deadness

to its influence can be explained by something infinitely less complex than his disbelief in its reality, and he should thank God, not only that he lives in Christian times, but that he has not been cursed with a taste—that he is not as other men are, or even as that poor sinner who lately died at Rome.

Those who have none of such old-fashioned qualities as taste or learning, very naturally make the most of the fact that the few ideas they have were hatched only yesterday; but the beauty and vitality of the fledglings they are so proud of, bear no proportion to their youth. They have big, water-on-the-brain heads and gaping mouths; half of them have the pip, and in a few years' time the whole brood will be dead; while the divine conceptions of the Greeks, which, by the ignorant, are called obsolete, because they are old, will live and flourish for ever; and, though a dry and priggish critic may never have felt her influence, Venus is a goddess still.

A man who honestly follows the bent of his genius will produce works infinitely more in harmony with the age than those weak minds who are for ever striving to do something eminently modern, and which shall correspond to the narrow conception they have formed of its characteristics. If old ideas continue to influence so many men of the present day, even our critic must admit that they are not altogether effete; but he need not trouble himself on this matter. It is impossible for any one to do any work which shall not evidently bear the impress of the time in which he lives, and even his own speculations are an example of one of the worst phases of the day—its flippant dogmatism. I shall now leave him to the quiet enjoyment of that mixture of resignation and conceit which small minorities, acting on small minds, can alone develop to perfection, as I am sure you are on the point of noticing the works of the great man whose dead body has been so impudently kicked, in a generous and truthful spirit.—Yours,

T. B.

## MISCELLANEA.

WE had hoped that Mr. Gibson was recovering. We regret that such was not the case, and that his death is recorded as having taken place in Rome, on Saturday, the 27th ult., at the age of seventy-five. He was born at Conway, in North Wales. At an early age his natural talents attracted the notice of the late William Roscoe, the historian of the Medici, which resulted in a subscription amongst the friends of that gentleman to enable the youthful sculptor to proceed to Rome, to master the art for which he had shown such aptitude. Introduced to Canova by Flaxman, and speedily becoming known to Thorwaldsen, he studied diligently under these great masters, and produced his first work of importance, "Mars and Cupid," in 1821. He was chosen an A.R.A. in 1833, and was promoted to the full honours of the Academy in 1836. For the last twenty years he has made Rome his head-quarters, varying his residence by occasional visits to England. His ideal works, and especially those of a purely classical character, will always rank higher than his statues of modern personages, though his colossal statues of William Huskisson at Liverpool, and of the Queen seated on her throne of state (in the Prince's Chamber at the House of Lords), are fine specimens of his power. Mr. Gibson was the first modern artist who revived the application of colour to the marble of his statues, a fine example of which was the "Tinted Venus," in the Great Exhibition of 1862. Liverpool is rich in specimens of the productions of his chisel, and at Sydenham there is a fine collection of casts from his best-grouped statues. Mr. Gibson lived and died unmarried.

The funeral took place on the following Monday, the arrangements being under the care of Mr. Macbean and Mr. Ercole, the bankers, at the request of the Roman executors, Mr. Penryn Williams and Mr. Spence. Invitations to attend were issued to the members of the Art Academies, to the Embassies, to the English residents and visitors, and to many foreigners; while placards announcing that the funeral would take place on Monday, at two o'clock, were posted in the English church and other public places, the clergyman of the American church reading it from the pulpit. The body was removed from the house early on Monday morning, and taken very privately in a hearse to the English Protestant burial-ground, where it was deposited in the little chapel erected there. As the

hour appointed drew nigh, the road leading to the cemetery became thronged with carriages and pedestrians. But many persons had been assembling at the cemetery from a much earlier hour; for on approaching the burial-ground it was evident that a large crowd of persons was already there. Outside the gate was a platoon of French soldiers, whose officer was placed for the time under the direction of the English authorities. With a courtesy and kindness which cannot be too highly appreciated, General Montebello accorded this mark of respect to our deceased countryman, who had been honoured by the Emperor with the decoration of the Legion of Honour. Artists were in great force; all the residents and visitors among the English and Americans of any consideration; many of the French and Germans, and not a few of the Romans, were there assembled, and, as was very evident, not merely to do honour to the man who had attained the highest eminence in his profession, but to manifest their regard for one who was as much beloved in private as he was respected in public life. The funeral service was read by the Rev. Mr. Watts, the resident minister of the Protestant Church. The pall-bearers were the Earl of Northesk, M. Schnetz (the Director of the French Academy of Arts), M. Dessoulavy, M. Wolff (the distinguished Prussian sculptor), Mr. Coleman (landscape painter, and Secretary of the British Academy of Arts), M. Bravo (Danish Consul), M. Saulini (the celebrated cameist), and M. D'Epinay, the very rising sculptor from the Mauritius. The chief mourners were Mr. Penryn Williams, the old and beloved friend of Gibson, Mr. Odo Russell, Mr. Webster, R.A., and Mr. Severn, Her Majesty's Consul. Mr. Spence, the friend, pupil, and almost son of Gibson, was prohibited by his medical man from following, and remained in the chapel.

To Mr. Severn's touching description of the funeral, which appeared in the *Times* of Monday last, we are indebted for the particulars of the disposition of his property by his will, the accumulation of a long life devoted to art, the first steps in which were simply copying drawings, to be exposed in the shop windows and sold at a few pence, as a means of subsistence. The will is dated 25th May, 1855, and by it he bequeaths to Mr. Penryn Williams, 500*l.*; Mr. Theed, 400*l.*; Benjamin Gibson, his cousin, 200*l.*; Mr. de Soulavy, 100*l.*; Signor Giuseppe Incoronata, of London, 100*l.*; Signor Giuseppe Bonomi, 200*l.*; Mrs. Anna Jameson, 200*l.*; Mr. Solomon Gibson, his brother, 100*l.* His books and prints, with their frames, he leaves to Mr. Spence, the son of his early fellow-workman, and now the eminent sculptor. His own or other drawings were left to the Royal Academy. By a codicil added May 26, 1865, he bequeaths to the Royal Academy his group in marble of the wounded warrior supported by a female figure, then nearly finished; all his works in marble not sold at the time of his death—models in Gesso of his works in marble not sold, except the models of such works as have been presented in marble; all his models in Gesso not executed; the first cast of Venus de Medicis, which was sent to Canova to be executed in marble, and which, when executed, was to replace the noble statue carried off to Paris. To the Royal Academy, in addition, he bequeaths 32,000*l.*, free of testamentary tax, on the following conditions: A space sufficient for their reception and easy accommodation is to be provided for his works, which are to be open to the use of the students of the Royal Academy, and to be exposed to the public, according to such regulations as to the Council shall seem best. Legacies of 100*l.* were left to his executors in England, the President, Treasurer, and the Secretary of the Royal Academy for the time being, and who were then Sir Charles Eastlake, Mr. Boxall, and Mr. Hardwick, "who will prove my will." By another codicil, made since his late illness, Gibson leaves 200*l.* each to his devoted and affectionate attendants, Mrs. Spence and Miss Lloyd; the same sum to a female servant who had been long in his service; and a similar sum to each of two of his workmen.

THE Rev. W. A. Leighton, F.L.S., of Shrewbury, has yielded to the repeated solicitations of Dr. Wm. Nylander, of Paris, the *facile princeps* of European lichenologists, and is engaged in preparing for publication "A Synopsis of British Lichens." He will feel obliged by the communication of notes of the localities of the rarer species, and for specimens or intelligence of new and undescribed lichens.

THE Anthropological Society have resolved upon sending, at their own expense, a special commissioner to Jamaica, to investigate the racial



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peculiarities which have been the ultimate causes of the late Negro outbreak. Mr. Pritchard, late consul at the Fiji Islands, has accepted the appointment. This instance of public spirit on the part of the society has been evoked purely by scientific enthusiasm. No questions of political expediency will be allowed to interfere with the much more important considerations which are always involved in any conflict of races.

WE copy the following from the French correspondence of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, for our anthropological friends to add to their data connected with the negro question: "Colonel Du-bois, the Minister of Hayti at Paris, gave a grand reception last week, which was attended by a considerable number of his countrymen and countrywomen. The latter excited especial attention. An impassioned French journalist declares that he never appreciated the inferiority of the pure white races till he saw the pretty Haytiens: 'Quels yeux! quelle vivacité! quelle animation! quelles belles épaules bronzées! Décidément, l'Europe aurait-elle raison de vouloir épouser l'Amérique?' Mr. Bigelow, the American Minister, was present."

AT a meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, on January 23rd, a conversation took place respecting the cattle plague, in the course of which Mr. Baxendell stated that the results of inquiries he had made had led him to believe that the total mortality among cattle from plague and all other diseases, during the past year, had been very little, if at all, above the average rate of the last ten years, thus indicating that the plague had, to a great extent, displaced pleuro-pneumonia and other dangerous diseases, and that therefore no just cause at present existed for the feeling of alarm which prevailed throughout the country.

THE Belgian Society of Political Economy presented to the Chamber of Commerce of Verviers a bust of Richard Cobden, as the most expressive symbol of their appreciation of the services rendered to the cause of free-trade by the Verviers merchants and manufacturers. It appears that these gentlemen were the principal supporters of the free-trade movement in Belgium which has been crowned with such great success. An interesting letter from Mrs. Cobden was read in the course of the inauguration, which was followed by a banquet at which 300 guests assisted, who all displayed the most cordial enthusiasm in behalf of "peace, justice, and liberty," the great ideas for ever indented with Richard Cobden's public life.

AT the sale of the library of the late Mr. T. Thomson, Deputy Registrar for Scotland, which was concluded on Tuesday last at the rooms of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, the several lots to which we called attention in a previous number sold for the following sums: Lot 137, *L'Histoire de la Mort d'Anne Boullene*, MS. on vellum of the period, 84l.; — 433, *An Imperfect Roman Breviary*, with the lines quoted by us in No. 160, 5l. 10s.; — 960, *The Embroidered Copy of the Dutch Testament*, of 1594, 55l.; — and 1068, the fragment of an early-printed Oxford schoolbook, *Terentii Vulgaris in Anglicam Linguam traducta*, probably from an Oxford press, prior to 1483, was bought, for the Bodleian Library, at 36l. The total of the sale was 1,640l. 15s.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette*, with number 112, published on Wednesday last, attained its first newspaper majority of a twelve months' existence. Having reached the first number of its third volume, its success may now be looked upon as an established thing.

THE Dudley Gallery does not close at dusk, and the Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings is open also of an evening.

THE Abyssinian captives have been removed by King Theodorus to Godiam or Gojam, two hundred miles to the south of Gondar. Letters from them to the date of September 28 were waiting at Massowah, to be forwarded. Later news, however, communicated to the *Opinion Nationale* by a French physician, under date of December 20, from Halai, on the summit of Mount Tarenta, in Tigre, is far less satisfactory. The writer is one of a party, under the direction of M. Vielle, a civil engineer, engaged in searching for minerals in Abyssinia, and he describes the whole country as in a state of civil war and devastation, there being three formidable pretenders in the field, against King Theodorus, two using the name of Goovessi, one of whom is the grandson of Ubie, King of Tigre, whom Dejesmia Kassai, before he had assumed the name of Theodorus, took prisoner with his sons in 1854. This Goovessi would appear to deserve the countenance of Europe, as he is friendly disposed towards the Franks, and, if

successful, Abyssinia, like Egypt, might be thrown open to civilized trade and intercourse. "Colonel Cameron," says the letter, "is carried about after Theodorus, chained to a native prisoner. Rassam, chief counsellor at Aden, who was sent to Manahouah a year ago to negotiate for Colonel Cameron's release, could not obtain an answer until September last. At that time he set out with Dr. Blanc and an officer of the Indian army, but he soon after was ordered by Theodorus to remain at Matala, where they now are. Accounts have reached Father Velmonte, the superior of the Lazarist mission at Jebo, near Halai, which were communicated to us by Father Velmonte himself. They announce that Mr. Sterne, the British missionary who had been held captive by Theodorus, had died under the bastonade, and that Colonel Cameron was in danger of experiencing a similar fate. The British steamer Victoria comes frequently from Aden to Manahouah to obtain information, but without success. Fears are entertained that M. Rassam's mission will prove a failure."

MR. J. O. HALLIWELL announces for publication, by subscription only, a new work on the life and writings of Shakespeare, to be extensively illustrated with wood-engravings.

IT is erroneously supposed that "Robinson Crusoe" first appeared piecemeal in the *Original London Post*; or *Heathcote's Intelligence*, a small folio journal, which was commenced on the 19th December, 1718. The first volume, "The Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe," was published in octavo on the 25th of April, 1719; and the second, "The Further Adventures," on the 20th of the following August. It was not till the 7th of October, in the same year, that the *Original London Post* commenced giving two pages of "Robinson Crusoe," beyond its two pages of news, &c. "The Further Adventures" were not concluded in that paper till the 19th October, 1720. Mr. W. Lee, in *Notes and Queries*, calls attention to this fact, we presume because "Robinson Crusoe," as published in *Heathcote's Intelligence*, is a book sought after by book-collectors, under the impression that it is the purest text, and fetches almost its weight in gold when sold by public auction.

ON Thursday, the 1st inst., Mr. Francis Grant, R.A., was elected President of the Royal Academy by a large majority of the members present; and, under the circumstances, possibly no fitter selection could have been made. The Presidency is the highest dignity which the Royal Academy, with the sanction of the Crown, can confer; and from his social standing as a man of wealth, moving in the best society, no less than his being a Royal Academician, Mr. Grant is pre-eminently qualified to fill the vacant office. The Report of the Commissioners on the state of the Royal Academy proposes a total change in the management of the schools, and advises the appointment of a general director in lieu of the different teachers who superintend the various schools. The *Guardian* says that the duties attaching to the office of President are henceforth to be divided among several individuals, each eminent in his own peculiar line.

M. GUILLAUME GUIZOT has contradicted the report of his intention to vacate his chair at the College of France.

IT is Her Majesty's intention to resume the holding of Drawing-rooms herself this season. A new code of regulations will be issued to prevent overcrowding and jostling, and the building which contains the suite of reception rooms at St. James's Palace is being enlarged.

AMONGST the most interesting literary announcements is a new poem by the Poet Laureate, for which Mr. Tennyson has chosen a classical subject. Mr. Martin F. Tupper's new play of "Raleigh" is ready, and will be produced at Easter. Mrs. Alfred Gatty is said to contemplate a new sixpenny magazine, to be edited by herself, and to be illustrated by herself and daughters. It would appear that the *Argosy* is under the editorship of Isa Craig. "Table-Talk," in the *Guardian*, leads us to expect an autobiography of the late Mr. Gibson, R.A. The writer of the paragraph fixes the date of the sculptor's birth, as communicated to him by the latter, as due to the year 1791, and not to 1793, as has been surmised.

THE Queen opened Parliament in person on Tuesday last, and there was but one feeling evinced throughout the densely-crowded line through which the procession passed, that of genuine delight at seeing Her Majesty again in the performance of her public duties. It was

generally remarked in the House that the Queen appeared much overcome, as she never raised her eyes from the ground. It was also remarked that Her Majesty looked pale as she returned to Buckingham Palace. The Queen left Windsor at half-past ten o'clock in the morning, and returned to the Castle, after the ceremony, leaving Buckingham Palace at half-past four o'clock.

RETAINING a reserve fund to meet outstanding liabilities of 4,000l., the Committee of the late Dublin Exhibition state their net profits to amount to 10,000l.

THERE is not a better series of railway-books for travellers than the shilling series of Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co.'s "Monthly Volumes of Standard Authors." "Beyminstre, by the Author of Lena," is the volume for February.

MESSRS. CHAPMAN AND HALL's new volume of their two-shilling "Select Library" is "A Woman's Ransom," by Mrs. Frederick William Robinson, author of "Grandmother's Money," "Milly's Hero," &c.

THE Benchers of the Inner Temple have elected a Cambridge man to the Readership of the Temple Church in the person of the Rev. Alfred Arager, late Scholar of Trinity Hall.

THE volume entitled "Studies in Parliament, a Series of Sketches of Living Politicians," reprinted from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and which have been attributed to Mr. F. T. Palgrave, reveals the name of the author, Mr. R. H. Hutton, of the *Spectator*. The book is just published by Messrs. Longman and Co.

MR. HARDWICKE writes to explain why Professor Gamgee's work on the Cattle Plague did not appear as announced. The fact is, the accumulation of interesting and useful matter has been so great that the work has expanded from the pamphlet form, for which it was originally intended, into a thick 8vo volume of more than 800 pages, as it was thought desirable to delay the publication in order that the history of the outbreak might be given. It is now, however, completed, and will be in the hands of the public in a few days.

THE *Caledonian Mercury* states that Mrs. Longworth-Yelverton will give a reading in the Music Hall, Edinburgh, on the evening of the 16th.

IT is said that the title of the Bishop whom the Bishop of Capetown is about to consecrate in the place of Bishop Colenso will be not the Bishop of Natal, but the Bishop of Pietermaritzburg.

THE Oxford lady students, we presume, all appear in gowns without the necessity of any order from the Vice-Chancellor to that effect. The lecturer to the ladies' class has proved a complete success, and it has been decided to have courses of lectures on other subjects likely to be of benefit. Professor Goldwin Smith has offered to give a few lectures on the influence which women have exercised in certain chief events of English history. Professor Conington also will give some elementary lectures on the Latin language, taking Ovid as his text-book; and Mr. Chandler, tutor of Pembroke, will give a few lectures on Greek, taking as his text-book Aristotle's works on the History and Nature of Animals. Professor Rogers hopes at some future time to lecture on the Principles of Political Economy.

FREDERICK RUCKERT, the German poet, a native of Schweinfurt, died on the 31st of December, aged 70.

THE *United States' Service Magazine* passes with the January number from the editorial management of Professor Coppée into the hands of Colonel Richard B. Irwin.

THE theory of absolute and universal Free Trade as taught by Adam Smith for account of the British manufacturers, says the *New York Tribune*, would, if it could be applied now to the nations of the world, immediately establish an international slavery of all the peoples of the world to Great Britain more enduring and more destructive than the universal dominion attempted by the Roman Empire. For in the present inequality of the development of the parties to this free exchange of products, England, which has the most money, the most machinery, the cheapest labour, the most skilled industry, the cheapest iron and steel, the most abundant coal, the most ships, and the most sailors, would overwhelm the manufactures of every other people, and afflict them with the multiform curses of a restriction to the growth and exportation of cheap food.



# THE READER.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1866.

## CASTAWAYS.\*

DOES any one want to measure the real gulf which divides truth from fiction, let him compare Captain Musgrave's narrative with "Enoch Arden." The poet starts with the great advantage of choosing his own climate, and his own latitude; and he can avoid the necessity of making his hero give up his entire time to the vulgar care of keeping himself from starvation. "Enoch Arden" is as indifferent to his creature comforts as Ariosto's paladins, and his mysterious dream of marriage bells quite a luxury compared to the painful exclamations of poor Musgrave. If we turn to the less impassioned "Robinson Crusoe," we find all the detail in which Defoe revelled a very irksome reality to the five sailors cast away upon the Auckland Isles. They had not to complain of solitude, but their daily tasks soon became unutterably wearisome. Their lot might easily have been far worse. They saved their provisions, firearms, and ammunition—indeed, the whole of their property, such as it was. Perhaps this was no real advantage. Finding they had the means of living on their wretched island, they made up their minds to leave their rescue to chance, and not to their own exertions. This was good policy in Robinson Crusoe; but five sailors, with a boat which they had the means of making sea-worthy, and in which three of them ultimately sailed to New Zealand, need not have remained from January to October, in the vain hope that "the Government" or their friends would send out some vessel about that time to take them away.

The story gives little encouragement to waiters upon Providence. Musgrave does his best to be an optimist, but it is clearly very hard work. Rank, dried seal for breakfast, dinner, and supper, is not a sufficient representative of all the things which have been given to us for food. Fermented liquor was never included in them; so Musgrave had no hesitation in producing it for himself, and "beer," or its equivalent, soon became one of the home productions of the Auckland Isles.

It is strange to find sailors more ready to brave death by starvation than at sea; and Mr. Tennyson is justified by facts in giving us a picture of mere endurance. Yet when the crew, after more than a year's submission to fate, resolved to save themselves, their difficulties vanished. The mate turned out a perfect Tubal Cain. Sheet-iron was beaten into saws; nor wanted to his hand what seemed both charcoal and forge. If he could not build a cutter, he could repair a boat; if he could not make an auger, he could put a gimlet to strange uses. The diary, written in seal's blood, becomes a record of endeavour instead of despair. Hope and exertion keep the men in better order than learning to read. A total absence of philosophy is now-a-days very refreshing. Here are individuals who find no comfort in a doctrine of averages. The carelessness of Nature comes not within their ken. The

men grumble for potato-skins. The captain finds fault with his own excess of enterprise; and yet all he had to dare was a short passage of five days to New Zealand.

The great charm of Defoe consists in his secret flattery of the royal nature of man. It is not labour, but servitude, which makes the difference between the king and the common man. Crusoe dug and delved as Adam would have had to do, even if he had remained in Paradise. But he is not the less a sovereign. Defoe knew what he was about when he gives him at last a companion necessarily inferior. Another castaway would have destroyed the illusion. Enoch's mates play no part either in life or death; and the two real men who were left behind for a few weeks "were on the point of separating and living apart."

## SCHOOLMASTER POLITICIANS.\*

IT is said that nothing is so much disliked in the House of Commons as history. And it appears to us to be equally out of place in discussions about the franchise. To commence with Roman times and the introduction of Christianity, in order to prove that the right of voting for a representative is not a privilege but a trust, smacks more of the ancient rhapsodists than of political economy. The history of the Commons of England is one thing. Whether we shall admit manhood suffrage is another. The assumption that the second is the natural complement of the first, even if it be true, is not a sufficient guide to its comprehension. Facts must be distorted to bring the two together. And Mr. Maurice loses no time in doing this. Thus we are told of the first Christian communities, "the poverty of these bodies is as conspicuous as their smallness." There is nothing to show that they were either poor or small. The fortune of Ananias and Sapphira was not small; and the apostles found the wealth poured at their feet so great, that they could not find time to distribute it. And what are we to think of this weak paraphrase of an old idea, which has been so often insisted upon by Carlyle: "By the Norman conquest, it was proved that nothing which lives can be swept away; that only which was *dead* finds the burial which it needs, and has been waiting for?"

This sort of attempt to epitomize history, in order to trace that leading idea which a lecturer or a politician wishes to inculcate, is becoming too common. To take a comprehensive view of the centuries was once a distinction, but it has long ceased to be so. Nothing can be easier than for a practised speaker to make a display of erudition quite sufficient to impose upon an audience who are already prepared to trust him as an oracle. It is not a person any man would like to imitate whom Sidney Smith makes in his famous "Noodle's Oration" refer to the Norman, and the Saxon, and the Dane, as reservoirs of that wisdom which is pure and undefiled. That the English nation, such as it now is, must be made up of those heterogeneous elements, and that most likely we derive from each successive stratum of conquerors and immigrants some particular advantage, is more than probable; but the

inquiry which is to determine for what we are indebted to each must be analytical, and not palontological—that is to say, it must ascend upwards by a process of elimination; and we cannot construct the past by applying to it the same methods of reasoning that we do to the present.

History, treated in this way, becomes, not indeed a fable agreed upon, but a collection of fables, as to the interpretation of which almost everyone differs. We have here the reaction, or the reverse of hero-worship. It is no longer the King, or the Statesman, or even the Man of Letters; but it is the indistinct idea which is held up to admiration. Now this may do with some parts of ancient history, because the documents we have to deal with are few, and may be thoroughly mastered by tolerable diligence. But the records of our own ancestors are so voluminous, and the phases of life those records exhibit so diversified, that there is scarcely any abstract proposition relating to modes of government which may not be defended. For any man, therefore, to appeal to history as a *proof* of his particular theory of representation, is to employ a method which he must be well aware can be made to yield any result the conjuror may have determined to elicit.

Many of the author's detached sketches are well enough in themselves; but, even as such, they are only clever, and somewhat fantastical, essays, which we read, not as at all likely to be true, but only as not too improbable to be offensive. What Mr. Maurice really thinks on the "representation of the people" we are quite unable to discover. He splits a most metaphysical hair between "manhood suffrage" and "universal suffrage." When these things were done by Carlyle in his earlier days—when, from the stones of etymology and the "right" meanings of words, sermons were first drawn, and we were told that not one of us ever understood what we were talking about—we forgot the abuse and our own intellectual inferiority in the pleasing idea that we were wise enough, if not to make, at all events to appreciate, a discovery when made. But this sort of thing cannot be done twice in a generation. It is very true that the working men, whom Mr. Maurice addressed, had not puzzled themselves very much with the exact meaning of terms; but if a man thinks he ought to have a vote there is little gained by telling him that what we want is "more manhood" in the electors, or calling the franchise an obligation, a right, a privilege, or a trust. To some minds, every property or faculty they possess is looked on as a trust. Others grasp everything they can get as a right. To endeavour to make any class of men regard, not only in this but in every generation, a particular function of citizenship exactly in the same light, is to show an ignorance of human nature which is scarcely credible. It is idle to exalt the question of extension of the franchise into the sphere of the highest moral and religious considerations, or even to complicate it with national education. It is not from those who talk and think merely as schoolmasters of large children that the working men will derive anything more than such benefits as schoolmasters can bestow. Neither religion or morality, and certainly not independence, are ever produced by mere inculcation. The mix-

\* "Castaway on the Auckland Isles: A Narrative of the Wreck of the 'Grafton' and of the Escape of the Crew after twenty months' Suffering." From the Private Journals of Captain Thomas Musgrave. Edited by John J. Shilling-law, F.R.G.S. (Lockwood & Co.)

\* "The Workman and the Franchise: Chapters from English History on the Representation and Education of the People." By Frederick Denison Maurice, M.A. (Strahan.)



ture of what are, in fact, politics with colleges can never succeed. To see whether your working man has his moral sense sufficiently awakened to deserve the franchise, is like digging up roots to see if they are growing. To improve the soil is the business of Mr. Maurice. There are other gardeners on the look-out to train his plants to grow with heads erect. It is not the nurseryman who knows best when the young tree can stand alone.

## THE RUINS OF LONDON.

THE New Zealander need not wait for the broken arch of Waterloo Bridge to begin his survey of the ruins of London. He may come over at once, and let us have the benefit of his meditations while we yet live to profit by them. The wreck of the great capital will, probably, never be in a more favourable condition for making a profound impression upon a stranger than at the present moment, when the work of population and demolition is going on side by side. If we cannot say of London, in her present aspect, that—

o'er her marts,

Her crowded ports, broods silence; and the cry  
Of the low curlew, and the pensive dash  
Of distant billows, break along the void—

we can say, what is a much more striking thing, that London exhibits a dense and hourly-increasing population, encamped in the midst of roofless houses, shattered walls, and heaps of *débris*. Total solitude, marked by the dismal boom of the bittern in the marshes, would not be half so solemn as this spectacle of a vast multitude of people fighting hard to carry on the business of life with a tremendous wilderness of stone, and brick and mortar tumbling about their ears.

Necessity is a prolific mother. Destruction is one of her progeny, as well as invention. We invent means of economizing time and labour, and we destroy in other directions to make room for improvements. The main process going forward in the world is that of adapting existing resources to the expanding wants of mankind—physical, social, and scientific. This process is, of course, inevitable. It is the law of progress, which no man or woman can arrest. The race that brought forth kings, of whom Canute is the historical type, and ladies who are represented by Mrs. Partington, is extinct. But we may grumble, notwithstanding, at what we admit to be unavoidable. It is not because we know we cannot help ourselves effectually, that we may not try to avert ever so little of a threatened infliction.

The widening of old streets, and the creation of capacious new ones to carry off the overflowing streams of traffic, are incontrovertible obligations. We must accomplish these objects by some means, or London will be choked by its myriads of passengers, as the whale is said to be choked by shoals of herrings. But urgent as the demands of the present and the future are upon our consideration, they should not be allowed wholly to obliterate the claims of the past. London is crowded with memorials connected with our history and our literature. There is no city in the universe so wealthy in traditions, preserved visibly on the walls in one shape or another. To hurry on the work of destruction, for the purpose of accommodating current affairs, without pausing now and then to try to spare a memorial of the old

times, is simple vandalism. Builders and engineers are not expected to be poets or archaeologists; but the sympathies in which they are deficient should be provided for them by the responsible "authorities."

The embankment on the north margin of the Thames, for instance, is a noble work. No man in his senses can hesitate to acknowledge its utility. It will relieve the pressure in the Strand, and diminish the crowds that now cram the penny boats, to the manifest risk of life. It will improve the condition of the river. It will throw open a grand thoroughfare and pleasure promenade to the public, and contribute materially to the healthfulness and beauty of the town. But has anybody reflected upon the devastation that is going forward to make way for this gigantic enterprise? Has any provision been made even for the preservation of any of the relics which must be displaced by the new highway? We believe we shall be strictly within the truth if we add that the shadow of such a thought never crossed the mind of the Woods and Forests, the Board of Works, or any of the executive powers concerned.

Yet there is no part of London more thickly strewn with memorials. The Strand is not as old as the City, but the gardens and orchards of its spacious inns and great mansions once ran down to the river's edge; and the river was the high road of London in the age before coaches, and even long after coaches, drawn by Flemish hacks, had loomed slowly into fashion through the villanous streets. Some monuments, such as the Duke of Buckingham's water-gate, still remain, which might be saved from the ruthless pickaxe. The water-gate was built by Inigo Jones, and is one of the most graceful of his productions. The annihilation of such relics on the borders of the river cannot be contemplated by any person of taste without a feeling of compunction. If we must destroy old nests of traditions, let us at least do so with our eyes open to the sacrilege, and spare what we can; and what we cannot spare let us try to chronicle in some form of local record, so that it shall not go down into oblivion altogether. Why not put up mural tablets to indicate where memorable events were acted, or memorable men lived, as they are now doing in the city of Turin, with a zeal and good taste that reflect the highest honour on the national character?

It is clear that sweeping demolitions must take place in certain neighbourhoods. The knot of narrow and gloomy streets lying east of the Charing Cross Hotel, between the Strand and the Thames, must doubtless one day come down; but the curious fact should be locally preserved that the names of these streets, and the order in which they are built—*George Street*, *Villiers Street*, *Duke Street*, *Of Alley*, and *Buckingham Street*—were selected to commemorate the style and title of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. In a similar way, there are other localities in London where family names and titles are found inscribed in clusters, after the manner of a dedication to their founders. Examples are furnished in Albemarle and Clarges Streets, off Piccadilly, and in the appropriation by the Bedford family of nearly all the streets about Covent Garden.

Symptoms of the coming encroachments of the embankment are already beginning to awaken alarm. Garrick's house, on the

Adelphi Terrace, together with many others, has had a premonitory notice. The house is in much the same state as it was left by Garrick's widow; and the drawing-room, now occupied by the Committee of the Royal Literary Fund, is almost as fresh in all the glory of Zucchi's delicately painted ceiling as it was when Roscius held soirées there. If the Terrace is to be dug up from its foundations, and Garrick's house must go the way of all houses that stand in the way of improvement, why should not an effort be made to snatch Zucchi's panels out of the ruin?

The doom that has gone forth of late years against memorable houses, whose sites know them no more, ought to check future ravages of civilization in town life. Rose Street, or Rose Alley, where Butler died of starvation, and Dryden was beaten by hired ruffians, has disappeared. The very conformation of that intricate locality, with its crooked passages and intersecting lines, running obliquely towards St. Martin's Lane, and southward to the Church, has been nearly blotted out. The Tabard Inn, the scene of that famous gathering of pilgrims which brings us back to the very first accents of our language and our literature, is menaced with destruction in the summer of next year, to make way for a block of warehouses; the White Hart, close at hand, where Jack Cade is believed to have established his head-quarters, is already gone; and Temple Bar, one of the oldest of our surviving landmarks, the work of Wren, and the witness of a greater number of remarkable historical incidents than, perhaps, any building yet remaining to us, is freely talked of as being marked for destruction. The nation ought to have a more direct voice in these matters than the existing mode of dealing with them admits. Milton is the property of the people, and the desire to spare his garden-house in Artillery Walk may be considered a corollary from the affection in which they hold his memory.

No sentimental superstitions about our great men should be permitted to interfere with the progress of improvement; and it is not because Ben Jonson held high court at the Devil Tavern, or bought his wine at the Mermaid, and found it so honest as to be worthy of transmission to posterity in immortal verse, that Fleet Street is not to be drained, or Bread Street properly ventilated. But a line should be drawn somewhere. It is idle to affect to ignore the reverence which the people feel for the names and memorials of their intellectual benefactors, who have become household gods to them, and to whom they look back as to the sources of their highest mental pleasures. Nor would it be very judicious to discourage this feeling. It is an important element in popular education; and even if it run a little into extremes, it is an excess on the safe side. Were we to destroy—as we seem to be in a fair way of doing—all the small relics of our poets and statesmen, our painters and authors of every order, that are scattered over the surface of the streets of London, we should deprive the people of a rich spring of delight and knowledge. A progress through any part of the metropolis in which the old façades have been preserved, is like a progress through a picture gallery. History rises up around us in a multitude of engrossing forms—an interior here, a battle there, a scrap of farce or



high comedy, a tragedy of domestic life, a beautiful face, a noble full length; and at every step we gather instruction, and are enabled by the genius of the place to realize in some sort the scenes which we trace only dimly in books. Sweep away the façades, open the streets, and build modern palaces, and we are compelled to acknowledge that the place is airier and brighter, and healthier to live in; but we must tell you it has lost a charm which all the architects in the world, with all the Boards of Health and Public Works at their back, can never restore.

## SCIENCE.

## OWEN'S COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.

*On the Anatomy of Vertebrates. Vol. I. Fishes and Reptiles.* By Richard Owen, F.R.S., Superintendent of the Natural History Department of the British Museum, Foreign Associate of the Institute of France, &c. (Longmans.)

TEN years have passed away since Professor Owen's great work on the Invertebrate Animals was published; and, after this long lapse of time, we have at last the continuation, specially devoted to the lowest divisions of vertebrate existence—the *Hæmatocrya*, or cold-blooded vertebrata. We can safely say that since the publication of Cuvier's "*Recherches sur les Ossements Fossiles*," no similar work of equal scientific value has been issued from the press in Europe. Our space will only permit us to indicate with extreme brevity a few of the most striking points of interest which are revealed by this comprehensive exposition of the principles of comparative anatomy. It fills a void in our English literature, which has during the last twenty years caused many anatomists regretfully to sigh for the appearance of some practical compendium which should afford definite, accurate, and precise information in a short space. We have too often had to look to the other side of the Channel for instruction; and the English anatomist, who has been asked by some anxious student for a text-book of accurately-compiled facts, has had to refer him to Germany or France for an answer. The naturalist upon whom for so many years devolved the care of the once famous Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, and raised the Hunterian Chair of Anatomy to the intellectual level it has since ceased to possess, was naturally the most fit person to attempt to produce this work; and the note-books of a laborious life, as well as the substance of many *vis à voce* lectures, are compressed in this volume. We can only glance at the aspect which a few of the author's generalizations present, forming as they do a clear conspectus of the present state of physiological and homological anatomy.

Anatomical science in England and in Germany have long been pursued with different and discordant aims. The German student extols the merits of what has been "termed grandiloquently transcendental and philosophical anatomy." Professor Owen points out that "every kind of anatomy ought to be so pursued as to deserve the latter epithet." In Germany, theory has often reigned supreme; although, by some happy accident, a mind like Oken's may have stumbled on a fact which, when duly interpreted, may disclose an enormous field for correct generalization. In England, we have had two classes of anatomists—one, the slow inquirer, tracing organ by organ, deaf in many cases to the philosophical bearing of the facts which he daily interprets, and moodily scoffing at the precepts of the "transcendentalist;" and the other, the mere popular expounder of "popular science" to the masses. The present work views anatomy from a far more lofty point, and we trust will remove the stigmas of inertness or superficiality from English biological science. It is, however, very difficult to raise oneself to the placid dignity of an authoritative ana-

tomical treatise. The worker who is imbued with the true spirit has need truly not to

Deal in watchwords overmuch;  
Not clinging to some ancient saw;  
Not master'd by some modern term;  
Not swift nor slow to change, but firm;  
And in its season bring the law,<sup>1</sup>

without hurrying and hustling his neighbours to attain an immediate result at present far beyond our reach.

We have been glancing through the work, in the hopes of discovering one out of the many striking passages to which we might call our readers' attention. We see no reason why, for the nonce, the last paragraph should not be selected. It runs as follows:—

In snakes and lizards, a sharp tooth is developed in the premaxillary of the embryo, towards the close of incubation, wherewith they cut through the tough egg-shell. The operation of this transitory and purposive weapon has been observed by Weinland; it totally disappears in the adult of most ophidia. For breaking through the more brittle shell in chelonia, the embryo is provided with a sort of horn or hard excrescence above the end of the upper jaw; this afterwards disappears. In the Crocodilia, the snout of the nearly-hatched young is sufficiently hard to break the egg-shell; but there is no distinct tubercle, nor any precociously-developed premaxillary tooth.

Either on the hypothesis of special adaptation of this structure to the need of breaking the shell, or on the theory of its being the remnant of an imparial dermal element attached to the nasal segment, this fact is most interesting. But the facts which are put at our disposal by a subsequently-published memoir of Professor Owen (Memoir on the Marsupial Pouches, Mammary Glands, and Mammary Foetus of the *Echidna Hystrix*. *Trans. Roy. Soc.*, 1865, p. 671) add some new and striking information to the stock of our previously-acquired knowledge. He therein states his belief that young monotremal mammals are also provided with this "internarial" tubercle whereby to liberate themselves from the egg:—

From this analogy, I imagine that the young monotremes may be provided with a horny or epidermal process or spine upon the internarial tubercle, for the same purpose. This temporary tubercle is obviously homologous with the hard knob on the upper mandible of chelonians and birds, by which they break their way through the harder calcareous covering of their externally-hatched embryo.

Figures have been given in this memoir of the "internarial" tubercle in *Echidna*, and in its allied genus, *Ornithorhynchus*; and we confess that we consider the functional resemblance of the structures in the mammalian to those in the reptile exceedingly close.

We have been very much struck with the manner in which Owen's conclusions, as enunciated in the present work, differ but slightly from those which he promulgated so long ago as 1846. He still applies the morphological method of comparing all the various bones of the skeleton according to their relations with one common ideal archetype of existence; and, in so doing, he uses, as appears to us, those modes of observation which the facts of the case appear to warrant. For, since the time of Oken, the archetypal doctrine of community of pattern of animal structures has gained ground extremely. Even putting out of sight the crude conceptions which the advocates of the school of Geoffroy St. Hilaire put forward many years ago beneath the banners of Grant and Macdonald, the principles which Owen has so long advocated, now, in the latter days of a long, laborious, and successful life, find echoes in the minds of thousands of energetic and laborious students. The opposition which they have received has been comparatively insignificant. A few periodicals have from time to time been started to "write down" the principles of "unity of development" and "relation to archetype." One by one, as a popular divine expresses it, they have "ducked under again into their native mud." The not unexpected demise of one of our most amusing Natural History perio-

dicals during the last few weeks can be cited as a case in point, and should serve as a warning to all who care less for positively accurate anatomical investigation than for the advancement of some pet system of developmental neology.

But the principles which are advocated in this work have long enjoyed at the hands of the educated continental public the meed of approbation which has been awarded to them since the inception of Professor Owen's labours on the subject. We have had, during the past few years, to deplore the loss of one of the most philosophical, as well as one of the most erudite, comparative anatomists of Europe, the late Camille Bertrand, of Montpellier. And when we again recal the manner in which that elegant writer and diligent searcher after truth examined and re-examined every link of evidence regarding the vertebral theory, and recollect the lucid diagrams by which he supported his views, we cannot but be struck with the fact, that on the Continent, where, *a priori*, we might not have expected the anatomical generalizations of an Englishman to gain implicit and immediate credence, there has been that amount of general accordance with the opinions of Professor Owen which in England has only been manifested by those anatomists whose erudition entitled them to arrive at, and whose social and intellectual status justified them in pronouncing authoritative opinions. The vertebral theory in England has received great support from those persons whose constant and long-continued acquaintance with the phenomena afforded by human and comparative anatomy induce them to speak on the subject. Thus Holmes Coote and Holden, teachers of anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, have long been amongst the foremost inculcators of comparative vertebrate anatomy. At Cambridge, Humphry (who, it is true, differs from Owen on some minor points, especially with regard to the homology of the prefrontal and vomer bones, and the structure of the limbs) worthily teaches the great principles of morphological anatomy. It is from his pen that one of the most lucid defences of the science has recently flowed. And although at Oxford the

Sant' asinita', sant' ignoranza,  
Santa stoltizia, e pia divozione,

which distinguishes much of its authoritative biological teaching, affords us a reason to hope for better things at a future time, we must recollect that some of the best workers in the field of practical anatomy have been those whom Oxford has educated. Edinburgh can boast the advantages of partaking in the labours of Professor Goodsir, whose great attention to the developmental aspects of the science have won many important facts. Still further north, we have at St. Andrews a teacher of vertebrate anatomy (Professor Macdonald) to whom can be accorded the singular merit of advocating theories which no one admits, and of remaining in perfect good-humour with everyone who opposes them. In Ireland, the exigencies of anatomical teaching have not enabled those who have the duty of performing much of the practical part of the business to go into the less necessary and more esoteric points of the science.

Professor Owen condemns in strong language, but not too strongly when the merits of the case are considered, the practice of some modern systematizers:—

I allude to such abuse, because of late a practice has been creeping in, to the opprobrium of some of our English zootomists, of representing a zoological definition of a part which an anatomist may have given in a classificatory work as the exponent of his homological knowledge and descriptions of such part in its various modifications and grades of development.

We think this censure well bestowed, especially when we think of the forced application which has been recently given of the principle *de omni et nullo*, before the Royal Society, with reference to the presence or absence of the *corpus callosum* in the *Marsupialia*. And if we cared to revive the



weary picture which was presented to us during the late "*Hippocampus minor*" controversy—if we were not as heartily sick of it as we conceive the defeated ultra-transmutationists must feel themselves to be—we should be able to afford many examples of the futility of imputing error or ignorance to any author whose reputation may afford an easier mark than that of the assailant would present, or whose definitions, based as they are on careful investigation of the facts, may not be quite those which the juvenile critic of the labours of his predecessors might desire. There are, however, examples given in the present preface of the mode in which the systematic or zoological significance of a word can be used, without any confusion necessarily existing in the mind of an ingenuous critic as to the meaning which such a word may possibly possess in "transcendental" zoology. Throughout the perusal of the present work, we have been struck with the cautious style which Professor Owen adopts, and the almost unconscious manner in which his thoughts, when left to themselves, fall into the same tone of expression which would have been adopted by a mediæval teacher of philosophical theology. As Professor Owen elsewhere says:—

With reference to the primary and ordinary aim of the naturalist—viz., the extension of a knowledge of animals, and of their place in the series of animals—I have clothed the results of my observations and comparisons in the usual technical language of systematic zoology. I am fully conscious, however, of the relative value in biological science of this department and aim of the naturalist's labours, and of the close resemblance of its language to the garb of thought characteristic of the mediæval scholastic mind.

This is a most peculiar and remarkable phase of anatomical thought, and one which, we are happy to say, rapidly increases at the present day. The words which John Mason Neale puts in the mouth of the author of "*Verbi vere substantivi*"—

Sense is nought, if style it slighteth;  
He with style so subtle writeth—

seem remarkably applicable to Professor Owen's method of investigation and mode of inculcation of the facts which he discovers. The time will soon, we hope, arrive when biologists will discover that the propositions of their science cannot, by the nature of things, be enunciated with the same preciseness and in the same axiomatic form as the propositions of more exact sciences. Two and two are undoubtedly four; but a hand is only a hand *in modo*; and the lung can only be termed a breathing organ *secundum quid*. The exact language which theology, in the days when it was a science, demanded from its votaries, is imperative on the biologist; and he who dares not employ the direct affirmation or negation of the mathematician is justified in using a style of speech which, although the ignorant and unlearned may deem it "jesuitical," the nature of the problem at our disposition imperatively demands. The thought which ever and anon strikes the mind of the cautious and painstaking teacher, that the words which he uses do not bear the same interpretation to all his hearers, ought to teach precision in language, even if precision in thought cannot be attained. Yet the words, "lung," "heart," "hand," "foot," "brain," may be used in widely different senses, according as their signification in systematic or in philosophical anatomy is impressed on the mind of the hearer. Yet there are many writers who feel a satanic delight in using the same anatomical word in the most varied and discordant senses, even in the same sentence.

The bearings of the work before us on the transmutation hypothesis are of the highest importance. It is very significant that Professor Owen, who elsewhere, and on previous occasions, has been ranked amongst the most eloquent supporters of the derivative hypothesis, should act with extreme caution before he ventures to assert the certainty whereby such hypothesis can be advocated at present, with the materials now at our disposal. He says:—

With the present psychical and structural characteristics of the human species, it may be reasonably concluded that those of other existing species, especially of the distinctly-marked vertebrate classes, will be at least concurrent and co-enduring; and in that sense, we may accept the dictum of the French zoologist, "*La stabilité des espèces est une condition nécessaire à l'existence de la science d'Histoire Naturelle.*" At the same time, indulging with Lamarck in hypothetical views of transmutative and selective influences during æons transcending the periods allotted to the existence of ourselves and our contemporaries as we now are, we may also say, "*La nature n'offre que des individus qui se succèdent les uns aux autres par voie de génération, et qui proviennent les uns des autres. Les espèces parmi eux ne sont que relatives, et ne le sont que temporairement.*"

While reading the above passage, we discern with respectful sympathy that Owen, for not the first time in his life, pleads thus strongly and manfully in favour of the transmutationist doctrine. But the above remarks will really have a wholesome tendency on the mind of transmutationists. The Darwinian theory has been so frequently advocated in the first place, read next, and never understood, that many of its disciples have shown a strong tendency either to speculate without a foundation of facts, or to misrepresent the state of our knowledge to chime in with their own preconceived notions. Cautious observers have been disgusted by the hasty and violent dogmatism of some of the most forward in the ranks of derivationists—a dogmatism which is as offensive as the anti-scientific mode of criticism which their opponents too frequently employ. To such, a careful review of the difficulties of transmutation, as afforded in the present work, will afford matter for sound instruction and grave reflection. But we do not for a moment imagine that a careful perusal of the above words would lead any sincere and unprejudiced inquirer to doubt that, however potent and vast the existing differences may be between the ape and man, or between any two such allied species, the law which affirms the probable descent of all forms of life from one or few primæval forms, resting as it does on all the great biological generalizations which comparative anatomy and palæontology have discovered, will sooner or later be successfully applied to render more narrow the wide gulf which now exists between closely-allied species of animals.

#### THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

*The Cattle Plague in its Relation to Past Epidemics and to the Present Attack.* By Lyon Playfair, C.B., LL.D., F.R.S. (Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas).

*The Cattle Plague; with Remarks upon the Drainage of Farm Buildings and Stables.* By H. Strickland Constable. Third Edition. (York: Sinter. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.; Dalton and Lucy.)

At a time when the minds of so many are full of anxiety to learn what course the newly-assembled Parliament will adopt on a subject of so much importance, and involving interests of such magnitude as the progress of the epizootic now raging amongst our cattle, it would be strange if many and various schemes for lightening, at least in some degree, the heavy pecuniary losses falling upon stock owners were not submitted almost daily for public approval.

When it became evident that the disease had obtained a firm hold in this country, the farmers in districts either actually attacked or menaced by the infection eagerly sought for the protection obtainable from Mutual Associations, wherein each member paid at entry a uniform sum agreed upon, proportionate to the declared value of his stock, and out of the funds of which Association he could claim a sum equal to about two-thirds of the value of the animals he might lose, provided those funds were sufficient. If the disease broke out in a district, and the funds proved inadequate, then a rateable distribution of the assets was made amongst the claimants. But this plan, in its original simplicity, was soon found to be inefficient,

and hence came the development of the principle of guarantee funds, in which an additional element of security was sought in the co-operation of landlords and other country gentlemen, who subscribed variable amounts to supplement the sums paid by actual owners of stock. Still it was apparent that the modified plan was only compatible with comparative freedom from disease; any virulent outbreak in a small district inevitably brought about the collapse of its Mutual Association, and the subscribers were left in the main to their own resources. So the progress of the disease necessitated an extended system of defence, and County Associations in a great degree superseded the more limited operations of small groups of parishes or petty-sessional divisions.

With the widening of the area an enlargement of the original design was resolved on; and to the shire of Aberdeen is due the merit of the discovery that by a voluntary assessment of a penny in the pound on the entire agricultural rental of the county, a sum could be raised sufficient to reimburse to a very great extent the losses consequent on the disease, and on the very vigorous "stamping out" measures which were adopted. The objection against district Associations, that their area was too limited for satisfactory results, was by a parity of reasoning held to be valid as against a restriction to county jurisdictions also; and it was maintained that nothing short of a comprehensive National scheme of Insurance would meet the exigencies of the occasion. Accordingly, early in January, Sir James Kay Shuttleworth published an outline of a project for distributing the burden of the loss over the farming lands of the whole of England, without taxing any other property or making any compensation from the public taxes, or incurring any subsidiary risk, and diffusing the burden over a series of years. This charge was to be distributed only over the lands of owners who consented to the insurance of their own or their tenants' stock, and in proportion to the number of stock so insured. The principle of this plan was explained to be that of a national insurance, transferring the risk from a limited area to the whole of England, which was to be supported by a loan from Government similar to those granted by the Exchequer for public works, and extending over many years. The loan was to be secured by a rent-charge, to be assessed on the owner and occupier of land in certain proportions. The scheme has, however, since been considerably modified, and it is doubtful if even yet it has assumed its final form.

Then we had the proposition of the Sub-Dean of Lincoln for a National Cattle Insurance, to be set on foot through the agency of the Post-office. A compulsory registration-fee of 1s. was to be imposed on every beast throughout the country; money for preliminary expenses was to be advanced by the Treasury, and afterwards repaid; the rates of insurance were to be decided by a Government actuary, on the basis of an *ad valorem* premium upon the amount insured; and a guarantee fund was to be established, to be supplemented by a compassionate fund provided by the liberality of the landowners and public at large. By this plan it was for the first time proposed to exact the sum to be compulsorily raised exclusively from the class who would get the benefit of it.

Next we have had the suggestions of Mr. Norman "for raising with ease and celerity an ample fund wherewith to combat the disease, and indemnify to some extent the unfortunate owners of plague-smitten herds." This is to be done by levying a uniform rate upon the rateable value of all the agricultural lands and tenements in Great Britain; these rates to be borne in moieties by landowners and occupiers; the collection of the rates and the equitable and economical administration of the fund to be entrusted to the machinery of the Poor-Law Board, in combination with the Board of Trade. Mr. Norman estimates that a sixpenny rate on the rateable value of agricultural property in Great Britain would



produce a fund of one million sterling—a sum equal to the entire present loss of cattle.

The *Times* endorses Mr. Norman's project with its approval, on the ground of its resemblance to the Aberdeen plan, which is "in itself simple and intelligible," and is "not only practicable, but ought to be acceptable to those immediately concerned." No doubt the principle of a compulsory rate upon all agricultural property is "simple" enough, but that it is at the same time either "equitable" or "politic," we cannot admit. Where is the equity of an arrangement which places all agricultural rentals on the same footing, and compels two farmers, each paying, say, 300*l.* a-year of rent, but one of whom has all arable and the other all pasture land, to contribute an equal sum? To us it appears that to make those pay for the losses of others who have nothing to lose themselves is something more akin to injustice than to equity.

The doctrine that landlords should be called upon to bear the burdens of their tenants is equally indefensible on any abstract principle of justice. It would be as reasonable to expect the owner of a house to pay a quota of the value of a tenant's furniture destroyed by fire, as it is to require a landowner to bear a measure of the loss falling, no matter how, upon the renter of his land, but in whose extra profits in prosperous times he gets no share whatever.

It is surprising that this view of the subject has apparently not presented itself to the minds of the authorities in the counties which are now so eagerly clamouring for the Aberdeen system. In Cumberland it has absolutely been decided that a voluntary rate of 3*d.* in the pound, on the basis of the poor rate, shall be collected in the proportion of 2*d.* payable by the landlord, and 1*d.* by the tenant. That such a proposition could be carried in an assembly of landowners is highly creditable to their large-heartedness and public spirit, but the principle is none the less unsound on that account.

The theory that because where the tenants are ruined the landlords must suffer, therefore the landlord should be compelled to pay an equal share of a risk in which he has everything to lose and nothing to gain, seems hardly less objectionable than Sir J. K. Shuttleworth's plan of securing the repayment of the loan by a rent-charge, to which the *Times* is so strongly opposed.

To our minds, the plan which more nearly approaches an equitable solution of the problem than either Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth's or the Aberdeen plan, is that proposed by the Sub-Dean of Lincoln. We do not say it is the best possible proposal, but it is the best which has as yet been made public. It makes no claim upon the landlord nor upon the State; but it seeks to raise the money to be paid as an indemnity, solely upon the property under risk. There are weak points in it, without doubt, and one of these is the eleemosynary adjunct of a "compassionate fund," which is most objectionable in what should be entirely a business transaction. Furthermore, the notion that any Government actuary can calculate a rate of premium is altogether futile, in the absence of all data for its determination.

But it is in the direction which this plan suggests that the only safe and equitable mode of dealing with a complex and difficult subject can be found. There are three essentials to any successful scheme for a National Cattle Insurance Fund. It must be provided exclusively by the sums receivable from owners of stock, who would alone be entitled to compensation; it must be strictly self-supporting, and independent of all guarantee funds or charitable contributions whatever; and it must be compulsory as against all owners of horned cattle in Great Britain.

To say that such a scheme is impossible in a country where life insurance, and insurance of all kinds, are more extensively practised than in any other part of the world, is to reflect discredit upon the large body of

able and scientific men amongst us. What we are mainly concerned about, is the possibility of putting the best plan into immediate operation as soon as it appears; and for this the Government must clearly be held responsible.

## THE MAGAZINES.

In the *Intellectual Observer* we find some interesting communications on natural and physical science. Mr. Jabez Hogg's paper, on "Life and Death in our Mines," deserves attention. The statistics are especially valuable. The deaths in mines during the year 1864 were extremely numerous; indeed, the number is appalling, when we come to think how much it might be diminished by an attention to even ordinary precautionary measures. It appears from the statements in the article before us, that during the year referred to, 158 miners were killed in the shaft, 556 in the pit, and 63 on the surface. Thus 777 were killed on the spot, and to them must be added the enormous number of 867 miners, who died from injuries which did not immediately destroy life. This gives us the total of 1,644, as the deaths of the mining population during a single year.—Dr. Richard Bithell, in writing upon the subject of "Marine Telegraphy," gives a very clear explanation of those technicalities which were so much employed in the papers, during the excitement occasioned by the loss of the Atlantic cable. Whoever desires to understand the meaning of such terms as *fault*, *dead earth*, *detectors*, *mirror galvanometer*, &c., should read this paper.—The Hon. Mrs. Ward presents us with a very highly-coloured sketch of the humming-bird hawk-moth, an insect which was commonly seen last year, and supplies us with an article which is really little more than a string of quotations from various entomological writers. We do not think much of the paper, and we would counsel the writer to modify her style. The expression that the word moth "appertains to the tiny devastator of our raiment" is inelegant and pedantic. The astronomical articles form a characteristic feature of this magazine, and are accurate and up to the time.

Dr. Seemann's *Journal of Botany* contains, besides several more technical papers, one which is of the highest interest to the physiological botanist. It is on "The Fecundation of *Lupinus Polyphyllus*," and is from the pen of the Rev. W. A. Leighton, a gentleman already distinguished for his investigations upon our native Lichens. During last summer his attention was attracted to the operations of a small humble bee on the flowers of *Lupinus Polyphyllus*. The bee alighted on the blossom, and by the weight of his body drew down the ale and the keel, and inserted his proboscis to the base of the stamens, for the purpose of extracting the nectar. In doing so, Mr. Leighton observed that the stamens covered with pollen and the pistil were slightly extended from the apex of the keel, and struck against the under portion of the body of the bee, which probably carried away some of the pollen with it. This observation led him to examine more particularly the structure of the blossom. In an early stage of flowering, he found that the standard was flattened, or laid close to the other parts of the blossom, but that in full expansion the lateral portions of the standard became reflexed. On opening some of the blossoms before the standard was reflexed, he found ten stamens of different sets and sizes, alternating with each other. One of the sets consisted of five large sagittate anthers, whilst the other set consisted of five small, rotund-oblong anthers in stamens scarcely reaching to the bar of the sagittate anthers; both sets were not half the length of the pistil. In this early state, the pollen of the sagittate anthers was all matured, whilst that of the other set was quite undeveloped. On examining other blossoms whose standard was reflexed, he found that the large sagittate anthers were all withered, whilst the smaller ones had become elongated to the length of the pistil. He now opened blossoms with unreflexed standards, and applied some of the pollen of the sagittate anthers to the stigmas of other blossoms with unreflexed standards, but he found that fecundation did not take place. He concludes, therefore, that the two sets of anthers have different powers, either on their own stigma, or on that of the flower of another plant.—Dr. D. Moon describes the recently discovered Irish plant *Inula salicina*; and Dr. J. E. Gray gives an account of certain alga collected by Menzies in Mexico.

In the *Geological Magazine* Mr. Binney contro-

verts the views of Professors Phillips and Sedgwick, concerning the relations of the so-called new red sandstones of central Yorkshire. He shows that these rocks are really conformably placed on the carboniferous beds, and consequently regards them as belonging to these latter. The permian deposits which lie above them are not conformable with them.—Professor Owen describes the jaw and teeth of a fish from the Kimmeridge clay.—Mr. Searles V. Wood, jun., gives several sections of the Valley of the Thames. This, which is a paper of some value, is to be continued in the next number.—The longest, and we venture to add the most attractive, article in the present number, is that by Mr. D. Mackintosh, on "The Sea against Rain and Frost." This paper attempts to show the relative power of the two sets of agencies in modifying the surface of the globe. One set of observers, at the head of which stands Professor Ramsay, considers that the present form of the ground is due to sub-aerial influences; the other, led by Sir Roderick Murchison, considers that the sea has been the principal denuding or excavating agent. He adduces many facts to prove: 1. That the sea is not simply a levelling agent. 2. That rain and frost are incapable of producing cliffs. 3. That the *débris* under cliffs is due to the action of the sea. 4. That rain is incapable of abrading hard rocks. 5. That the presence and permanence of glacial markings show the limited power of atmospheric denudation. He then, in conclusion, remarks that rain and frost can only justly be regarded as supplementing the denudation effected by the sea; that their capacity to lower the earth's surface is comparatively small, unless immediately assisted by streams of sufficient transporting power; that the sea by its laterally excavating agency, and "by uniting in itself at the same time and on the same spot a power of detaching and removing, can alone prove equivalent to the production of such a series of escarpments, cliffs, rocky pillars, terraces, headlands, &c., as those comprising the more abrupt inequalities of the earth's surface."

The *Floral World* is the second number of a horticultural journal, edited by Mr. S. Hibberd. It does not call for any particular notice at our hands.

Hardwicke's *Science Gossip* is an excellent number.

## THE PORK PLAGUE.

DURING the months of November and December of the preceding year the town of Hedersleben in the Hartz was the scene of a terrible outbreak of a trichinous disease, resulting in the death of some eighty people and the serious illness of many others. The causes of this fearful scourge have been inquired into as far as existing circumstances permit (death having removed the most valuable witnesses), and there is reason to believe that it arose from the consumption in the form of raw ham and sausage of the flesh of a pig infected with *trichina spiralis*. The pig was slaughtered about the last week in October, but as the pork-butcher and his wife and family are amongst the victims, nothing more can be ascertained about the earlier history or condition of the animal.

During the first week that the flesh was eaten no one appears to have died; but before a fortnight had elapsed two cases of death occurred, and at the *post mortem* of the second of these a great number of trichinae were found in the intestinal canal. The people then began to die in numbers, and their bodies were found to swarm in every part, intestines, muscles, &c., with these parasites. The symptoms of the outbreak at Hedersleben resemble in all respects those of the Hettstädt epidemic of thirty years ago; on that occasion no deaths took place during the first week, but, after violent diarrhoea and sickness, death ensued, on the average, on the twelfth day after eating the uncooked infected meat, and on the fourteenth day after the consumption of the pork partially cooked. The case is, however, recorded of the Burgomaster of Hettstädt, in which the partaking of trichinous sausage proved fatal after the short lapse of thirty-six hours. The trichinae have pre-eminently their habitat in the muscular tissue; it was found at Hedersleben that those persons who had eaten the muscular parts of the pork were one and all affected, whilst those who had merely ate the kidneys and fatty parts, the lard for instance, were uninjured.

The trichina cannot live at the temperature of boiling water, so that thorough cooking of suspected pork is all that is required to render it harmless. An illustration of this occurred at



# THE READER.

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Hedersleben: A woman who bought some sausages became seriously ill through eating some of them, whilst her husband, for whom she fried the remainder, was uninjured. As meat, however, is usually boiled or roasted in pieces of some considerable size, it may easily happen that the interior may not reach the required temperature. Professor Hertwig made some very conclusive experiments in proof of this. He placed two pieces of trichinous pork, each about the size of one's thumb, in cold water, and then raised it to the boiling point. One piece he boiled twenty-two minutes, the other twenty-five; and he found that the first piece still contained living trichinae, whilst in the second piece they were all dead. The violence of the outbreaks at Hettstädt and Hedersleben must undoubtedly be ascribed to the penchant of the inhabitants for raw or insufficiently cooked meat.

It has been erroneously stated by some that it is difficult to find trichinae in infected meat. This is not the case: a little experience enables one to detect the position of one with the naked eye, and with a little practice in the use of the microscope, they can be focussed in a few minutes, and it is by no means an unpleasant object, with its slow and graceful gyrations; it lives, moreover, for several weeks, and even months, in this manner, and if at rest, merely requires a little careful warming to set it once more coiling upon itself.

Professor Hertwig, in some interesting researches, showed with what astonishing rapidity these parasites propagate. He examined four young porkers by making a small incision, and, examining the flesh removed under the microscope, it was perfectly free from trichinae. To the first he gave one Loth (about sixteen grammes) of trichinous meat; to the second, two; to the third, three; and to the fourth, four; and then watched the effects. They became ill the same day; diarrhoea and a general stiffness of the limbs were the principal symptoms; and one of them died. In all, not only the one which died, but likewise in the other three, not thousands but millions of trichinae were present. Before they were killed, small excisions were made from time to time, and microscopical examination showed the presence of these parasite worms; even in eight days their flesh was, so to speak, saturated with them.

The original source of these creatures is still unknown. There seems to be no doubt that the human system only derives them from the flesh of pigs. But how do pigs get them? Various theories have been advanced to account for their presence. Somewhat similar worms have been found by various observers in the beetroot, when diseased, and amongst animals in the mole and in the earthworm respectively, but later investigations have disproved their identity. The *trichina spiralis* is, however, not peculiar to the pig, but is likewise the parasite of the cat, the rat, and probably the mouse. That the pig and the cat should become infected by the lower animals is easily to be accounted for; Dr. Cohnheim, of Berlin, when inquiring into the outbreak at Hedersleben, was fortunate enough to see a pig seize a rat, and eat it. This, however, does not explain the existence of the trichinae in the four above-mentioned animals, and Virchow has given it as his opinion that they may probably have become infected by eating the trichinous evacuations of their kind, of one another, or of man. This theory gains support in the case of man and the pig, from the fact that the trichinous epidemic seems in some districts to recur at certain intervals of time, which could be readily explained if one assumed such a cycle from man to the pig, and from the pig to the man; the rat might likewise, in some cases, act as carrier between the two.

Strenuous measures, both on the part of the State, in some parts of Germany, and on the part of the butchers themselves, have been taken to prevent the sale of trichinous pork. In the larger towns every beast that is killed is submitted to microscopic investigation. In the town of Brunswick, the examination has been compulsory ever since 1863, and is conducted by medical men appointed for the purpose. Between December, 1863, and December, 1865, 30,000 pigs were examined, and but two of these contained trichinae.

In the town of Blankenburg, in Brunswick, out of 700 pigs that were tested, four were found trichinous. The preventive means adopted at Nordhausen are entirely voluntary, and of an interesting kind. The pork-butchers have formed a society, each member of which is to be in possession of a good microscope, and must have some practice in using it. For this purpose they

engaged a medical man to give them a course of instruction in microscopical manipulation, and they have since given notice that anyone who shall prove any member of the society to sell trichinous pork shall receive the sum of fifty thalers.

In Berlin, during the year 1865, there were many cases of greater or less severity of trichinous disease, only one of which, that of a girl in May last, proved fatal.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

It is generally stated that Mayer, in his "Dynamik des Himmels," was the first to point out the retardation of the earth's rotation caused by the tides. A letter from Professor Fick, of Zurich, to Professor Poggendorff, which appears in the current number of the *Annalen*, shows that this is not so. The idea belongs to Immanuel Kant, and it is clearly and distinctly worked out in a short memoir, published by him in 1754, entitled, "Discussion of the Question proposed as a Subject for a Prize by the Academy of Sciences at Berlin for the Present Year, as to whether the Earth's Axis has undergone a change in length." The memoir is printed in Hartenstein's edition of Kant's Works, Vol. VIII., published at Leipzig in 1838.

ONE of the signs of the attention which has of late years been devoted to the subject of fish-hatching, may be seen in the organization of fish exhibitions. A gathering of this kind took place at Bergen, in Norway, last autumn, and it is announced that another is to be held at Boulogne-sur-Mer on the 1st of August next, and to remain open for six weeks. It will embrace everything relating to sea, lake, river, and pond fishing, and to marine and river fish-culture. Fishing-boats and models of fishing-boats, nets, and other fishing engines, baits, both natural and artificial, instruments used in preserving fish, samples of the salt employed in curing them, drawings and models of fish-hatching apparatus, and even books on the subject, will all be received. Applications are to be addressed to M. le Secrétaire de l'Exposition de Pêche de Boulogne-sur-Mer, before the 1st of March next. The exhibition has been organized by the Prefect of Pas-de-Calais, and is under the patronage of the Minister of Marine. As an inducement to intending exhibitors, the committee have undertaken to pay the carriage of goods to and from the exhibition, and to insure them both from losses at sea or by fire.

THE vitality of error is proverbial, but we were hardly prepared to find a professedly scientific journal perpetuating the error about Professor Schönbein and the discovery of antozone. In the "Presse Scientifique des Deux Mondes," for the 16th ult., there is a paragraph headed "L'ozone et l'antozone," in which M. Barral states that "M. Schönbein, l'éminent chimiste, vient d'annoncer" that he had succeeded in decomposing oxygen. In the first place, the announcement was made so far back as March last, and in the second, Professor Schönbein never did decompose oxygen, and he never said that he had done so. The vague rumour, which certainly obtained a wide circulation, has been contradicted repeatedly during the last nine months, and it is a matter of surprise how the contradiction could have escaped the notice of anyone who is at all interested in the subject. It is quite true that M. Barral guards himself by a "*supposons que la découverte se confirme.*" He says, supposing that antozone is, as stated, lighter than hydrogen, and that it can be produced as easily as that gas, "to what heights shall we not attain, what splendid ascents we shall be able to make!" Yes, and what valuable facts we shall be able to collect, if we can only get a careful writer like M. Barral to record them.

## SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE GLACIAL SUBMERGENCE.

I HAVE already once had the honour of replying to your judicious correspondent "M." on the erosion of lake basins. It will give me great pleasure if I should by this letter elicit something further from him, either to corroborate, or else to lay to rest, this hypothesis of glacial submergence. My own feeling on the subject is that the discussion is premature, because the question of change of climate cannot be considered yet settled, and that that ought to have the precedence.

I have already expressed an opinion that the effect of an ice-cap upon the level of the ocean cannot be estimated by merely considering the

change caused by it in the position of the centre of gravity of the sphere, as has been done by M. Adhemar and Mr. Croll. "M." shares my conviction on this point. I have asked the opinion of a mathematical friend as to what the effect of an ice-cap would be upon the level of the ocean, and he has suggested to me that, when the cap is small, the effect may be found approximately by considering the ocean as under attraction to two centres—that of the solid earth, and the centre of gravity of the cap—and finds for  $r$ , the distance from the centre of the sphere of any point on the surface of the ocean,  $r = c + \frac{c^2}{n r}$

(nearly),  $c$  being a constant determined from the quantity of water,  $n$  being the ratio of the mass of the earth to that of the cap, and  $r'$  the distance of the point in question from the centre of gravity of the cap. Now since  $n$  is very large, it is evident from this expression that  $r$  differs from  $c$  by an inconsiderable quantity, except when  $r'$  is very small—i.e., when the point in question is near the pole. Hence the general spherical form of the ocean would not be affected.

This result appears to me to meet "M.'s" difficulties.

First, as to the earth's figure—for the increase of the polar radius will be found to be very much smaller than Adhemar supposes, and the change in the figure of the earth, from what it is believed to be, will take place in a locality where (happily, perhaps, for M. Adhemar, Mr. Croll, and myself!) an arc of the meridian never has been, and is never likely to be, measured.

Secondly, an ice-cap of the modest dimensions required would very slightly affect the rotation, being all of it within a short distance from the axis of rotation. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that ice is very much less dense than the earth itself, and consequently any dimension of the globe being increased by ice would affect all its motions much less seriously than if the matter were of the mean density of the earth.

Lastly, all our constants determined by observation have been so determined subject to the existence of an ice-cap at the South Pole, if one exists; so that it seems to me beside the purpose to say that these constants would be affected by the existence of an ice-cap. Granted that they would have been affected by the enormous change which may have resulted during a grand glacial epoch; but who knows that they were not so affected?

If we proceed to apply the formula given above to calculate the mass and thickness of a supposed South Polar ice-cap, it is necessary to premise, in using M. Adhemar's data, that they are rather the result of an incorrect theory than of observation. Nevertheless, it will be satisfactory to inquire whether, supposing them tolerably correct, the formula leads to results which are or are not possible.

M. Adhemar seems to have fairly estimated the extent of the South Polar ice, which may from his map be roughly put down as extending to latitude  $65^\circ$ —i.e., to about the antarctic circle. But there does not appear to be much reliance to be placed upon his assumed depths of the two polar oceans. We may accept his values, assured that he has not made them unfavourable to his theory.

Perhaps it is a somewhat violent assumption to consider an ice-cap, extending to lat.  $65^\circ$ , to attract as if it were collected at its centre of gravity, but our results throughout cannot be looked upon as more than approximate.

Assuming, then, after Adhemar, as "M." has done, the depths of the South and North Polar oceans at 2,466 and 274 fathoms, respectively, if we neglect the effect of the Southern ice upon the water at the North Pole, their difference, or 2,192 fathoms, may be taken for the deepening of the ocean at the South Pole due to the attraction

of its ice-cap, or 2,192 fathoms =  $\frac{c^2}{n r}$ . Taking for  $c$  the value assumed by Mr. Croll, 3,979 miles, putting the density of the earth at 6.56 times that of water, and of ice as .926 that of water, it will be found that this equation gives 34,099 for the value of  $n$ —i.e., the ratio of the mass of the earth to that of the ice-cap, and 5.88 miles for the thickness of the cap, considering it uniform.

This is certainly a very modest value, and very different from twelve miles, which would be about the thickness of a cap formed by the accumulation of one mile of water removed from the rest of the globe, as suggested in Mr. Croll's last letter, and supposed to extend to lat.  $60^\circ$ . Yet such a cap of ice would not shift the centre of gravity of the earth more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a mile, and



not produce any submergence at all, according to Mr. Croll's mode of viewing the problem.

The thickness of our cap would have to be measured from the general level of the globe considered as a sphere of mean density, the ocean being taken into account, and consequently would dominate the ocean-level at the pole by less than the difference between 5.88 miles and 2,192 fathoms, or 3.38 miles.

Such a thickness, on an average, would give a very moderate elevation, less than that of the highest mountains. If we apply the formula to find the submergence at the edge of our supposed ice-cap, it will come out about 27601 mile, or 243 fathoms.

In calculating the thickness of the cap, it will be observed that it is inversely proportional to  $n$ ,  $r$ , having its polar value. Now the submergence is also inversely proportional to the same quantity, hence whatever the values of  $n$  and  $r$ , the polar submergence will be proportional to the thickness of the ice-cap—so long, at least, as that thickness is inconsiderable in respect of the other dimensions of the cap; in other words, the extent of the submergence at the pole will be independent of the extent of the cap, and will depend upon its thickness alone.

In this rough estimate, I have only endeavoured to show what kind of dimensions a polar ice-cap must have, to produce a given affect upon the level of the ocean at the pole. I have not urged the existence of such an ice-cap; and though I have shown that it would produce submergence if it did exist, I would by no means attribute all changes in the ocean level during past times to such a cause. On the contrary, as I have before stated in your pages, the present rising of Scandinavia and sinking of Greenland prove that some other causes are at work; and we also know that in all periods the solid masses of the earth have been ruptured, which must have led to changes in the relative levels of the sea and land.

I hold it to be an axiom that, where various causes may conduce to the same result, we are sure to err if we confine our speculations to any one of them, to the exclusion of the rest.

O. FISHER.

#### REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—January 10.—Mr. W. J. Hamilton, President, in the chair.

Messrs. Woomes Chunder Bonnerjee, 108, Denbigh-street, St. George's-road, S.W.; Charles Pannel, Torquay; and Joseph Wright, 39, Duncan-street, Cork, Ireland, were elected Fellows.

The following communications were read:—

1. "On the Origin and Microscopic Structure of the so-called Eozoönal Serpentine." By Prof. W. King and Dr. T. H. Rowney. Communicated by Sir R. I. Murchison, F.R.S.

Taking the Grenville Rock as its type, "Eozoönal Serpentine" was defined by the authors to consist essentially of variously formed granules of Chrysotile, or some other allied mineral, imbedded in, or intermixed with, Calcite. Although differing from the type in some respects, the varieties of Serpentine which they have examined from Connemara, Donegal, the Isle of Skye, India, Bavaria, and the State of Delaware, are considered as belonging to the same section. The Serpentine from Cornwall, the Isle of Anglesea, and Saxony, which appears to be devoid of "Eozoönal" structure, they were disposed to look upon, but with considerable doubt, as an eruptive rock. The authors stated their conviction that every one of the presumed organic structures of "Eozoönal" Serpentine is purely and primarily mineral or crystalline. The "skeleton" they hold to be identical with the calcareous matrix of certain minerals, notably Chondrodite, Pargasite, &c. They adduced various considerations and evidence to show that the "proper wall" cannot have resulted from pseudopodial tubulation; and, instead of being an independent structure, in their opinion it is no more than the surface-portion of the granules of Chrysotile crystallized into an asbestiform layer. The dendritic and other forms, considered to represent the "canal system," were shown to be tufts of Metaxite, or some other allied variety of Chrysotile; while the resemblance they bear to some which are common in crystalline limestones, also their identity to the imbedded crystallizations of native silver, moss agates, &c., and the total dissimilarity between them and the foraminiferal structures with which they have been homologued, are points which the authors held to be conclusively

fatal to the view which contends for such forms being of organic origin; in their opinion they are no more than imbedded "imitative" crystallizations. What have been taken for "Stolons," they were convinced are for the most part crystals of Pyrosclerite. The "chamber casts" were considered to be identically represented among both minerals and rocks—in the former by the grains of Chondrodite, Pyralloolite, Pargasite, &c.; and the latter by the segmented kernels of native copper, zeolites, &c., in eruptive rocks; also by the remarkable botryoidal and other shapes which occur in the Permian limestone of Durham. The authors concluded by offering it as their opinion that "Eozoönal" Serpentine is a metamorphic rock; and they throw out the suggestion that it may in many cases have also undergone a pseudo-morphic change, that is, it may have been converted from a gneissoid calcareous diorite by chemical introductions or eliminations.

2. "Supplemental Notes on the Structure and Affinities of *Eozoön Canadense*." By W. B. Carpenter, M.D., F.R.S.

In this paper Dr. Carpenter stated that a recent siliceous cast of *Amphistegina* from the Australian coast exhibited a perfect representation of the "asbestiform layer" which the author described in his former communication on the structure of *Eozoön*, and which led him to infer the Nummuline affinities of that ancient Foraminifer—a determination which has since been confirmed by Dr. Dawson. This "asbestiform layer" was then shown to exhibit in *Eozoön* a series of remarkable variations, which can be closely paralleled by those which exist in the course of the tubuli in the shells of existing Nummuline Foraminifera, and to be associated with a structure exactly similar to the lacunar spaces intervening between the outside of the proper walls of the chambers and the intermediate skeleton, by which they become overgrown, formerly inferred by the author to exist in *Calcarina*. Dr. Carpenter then combated the opinion advanced by Professor King and Dr. Rowney, in the preceding paper, and stated that even if the remarkable dendritic passages hollowed out in the calcareous layers, and the arrangements of the minerals in the Eozoic limestone, could be accounted for by inorganic agencies, there still remains the Nummuline structure of the chamber walls, to which, the author asserts, no parallel can be shown in any undoubted mineral product. In conclusion, the author stated that he had recently detected *Eozoön* in a specimen of Ophicalcite from Ceschä Lipa, in Bohemia, in a specimen of gneiss from near Moldau, and in a specimen of serpentinous limestone sent to Sir Charles Lyell by Dr. Gümbel of Bavaria.

The following specimens were exhibited: Serpentine from Canada and Connemara, exhibited by Professor T. Rupert Jones.

Jan. 24.—Mr. W. J. Hamilton, President, in the chair.

Messrs. Mason, F.C.S., Brighton; William Nevill, of Langham Cottage, Godalming; and Henry L. T. von Uster, 3 Duke Street, Portland Place, W., were elected Fellows.

The following communication was read: "Notes on Belgian Geology." By Mr. R. A. C. Godwin-Austen, F.R.S. This communication related to the Upper and Lower Kainozoic formations of Belgium, in the following order:

1. The Polders, or sea-mud beds, and their equivalents. 2. The Campine sands, and Löss, or Limon de Herbaye. 3. The Boulder-formation. 4. Cailloux Ardennais. 5. The Lower Kainozoic, or crag. The polders, which form a belt along the sea-board of Belgium and Holland, occasionally running inland up the courses of rivers, as up the Scheldt to Antwerp, indicate an elevation of very small amount, corresponding to the raised estuarine and other beds around our own coasts. They are covered by dunes and drifted sands. A great deal of the fenland at higher levels, with peat and bog-iron, belongs to the age of the polders, and of still earlier times, inasmuch as the polders very generally overlie a terrestrial surface. The Campine sands, which run parallel with the coast from North Holland towards Antwerp, but within the polder-belt, were conjectured, from their composition and on other considerations, to have been derived from sands carried inland away from dunes of the Boulder-formation period. The Löss, which is of freshwater origin, resulted from the annual depositions of melted snow-waters. The dispersion of the Cailloux Ardennais was referrible to another and earlier stage of a period of cold, and when the axis of the country had a greater relative elevation than at present. These views were sup-

ported by reference to the Coast Section at Sangatte. The boulder-formation proper is only slightly represented in some of the sections about Antwerp. With respect to the Lower Kainozoic series, the author preferred the divisions proposed by M. Dumont (Scaldésien and Diestien) to the minute subdivisions of Sir C. Lyell and M. Nyst. The exceedingly narrow vertical dimensions of the crag, and the manner in which, along the continuous sections now exposed, one bed of the Scaldésien crag replaces another, are new facts, and preclude any systematic order of sequence, founded on percentage comparisons from local assemblages of fossils. The Antwerp crag series presents two conditions of sea-bed, a deepish-water and life-zone formation, corresponding to the ooze-depths of existing seas; this is the Diestien of Dumont or Lower crag. On an eroded surface of this, there occurs at Antwerp an upper series of coarser sands, shingle, and gravel, together with much which has been derived from the lower; this is the Scaldésien. The change from one to the other indicates a change as to depth over the crag sea, and the result has been an admixture of the characteristic materials of distinct sea-zones.

The original boundary line of the crag sea is traced, as also the great breadth of the drift-sand zone, over the Belgian area; this—coupled with the consideration that the crag sea-waters on the Continental coast-line nowhere came in contact with any beds older than Nummulitic, such as Tongrien and Bruxellien, even as high as Denmark, whilst on the English side, from Suffolk north, its coast-line was of chalk with flints—indicates a closed sea on the south, as alone by such an arrangement could the flint-gravel be carried along. The differences between the crag-fauna of England and of Belgium were explained in accordance with bathymetrical distribution. The Scaldésien beds of Antwerp contain an assemblage which is composed in part of a littoral fauna, and in part of that of ooze-depths. The red crag of Suffolk differs from the Scaldésien in being more littoral in its forms, as also from containing the materials of a Bryozoan zone. The Bolderberg beds, which afforded M. Dumont his evidence in favour of his "Système Bolderien," were shown to have been wrongly interpreted, and to belong to the crag-sea accumulations.

The following specimens were exhibited: Miocene Corals from Malta, presented by Dr. P. Martin Duncan, Sec. G.S. Metamorphic Rocks containing remains of plants from the Alps, presented by M. Crescenzo Montagna. Specimen of *Sagenaria dichotoma*, from the Clay Cross Coal Company's mine, Derbyshire, presented by Mr. Soulfby.

NUMISMATIC.—Jan. 18.—Mr. W. S. W. Vaux, President, in the chair.

Mr. Edward Dyke Lee, B.A., was elected a member of the society.

Mr. Evans exhibited two Danish bracteate ornaments in gold of the Iron period, with loops for suspension. Similar specimens have been found in Saxon interments in Kent.

Mr. Freudenthal exhibited a pattern for a decimal coinage, obv. VICTORIA D.G. BRITANNIA: REGINA F.D. 1857. Head to left, with wreath of oak leaves. Rev. DECIMAL HALFPENNY, 5 CENTIMES. Britannia seated to right.

Mr. G. Brooks exhibited seven groats of the reigns of Edward IV., Richard III., and Henry VII., also two Burgundian coins, found in excavations in the neighbourhood of the Edgware Road.

Mr. Boyne exhibited an unpublished medalion, being the second brass coin of the Quinctia family, surrounded with four concentric rings.

Mr. Evans read a paper communicated by Mr. George Finlay, LL.D., entitled "Thoughts about the Coinage of the Achaean League."

ZOOLOGICAL.—Jan. 23.—Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., in the chair.

Mr. Slater exhibited an egg of the one-carunculated Cassowary (*Casuarus uni-appendiculatus*), laid in the Gardens of the Zoological Society, Amsterdam.—Mr. Slater also made some remarks on the American Lepidosiren, and called attention to the rarity of specimens of this animal in European collections.—Dr. J. Murie read some notes on the Markhor (*Capra megaceros*), chiefly based upon a specimen of this animal which has recently died in the Society's gardens. Dr. Murie also gave some account of the morbid appearances he had observed in a chimpanzee which had lately died in the menagerie.—Mr. A. D. Bartlett, Superintendent of the Society's Gardens, read some notes upon the nesting habits and eggs of certain



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of the rarer species of birds that had bred in the Society's aviaries during the past summer. Amongst those to which particular attention was called were the Sun Bittern (*Eurypyga helias*) Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*), the Scarlet Ibis (*Ibis rubra*), and the Guira Cuckoo (*Ptiloleptis guira*). A communication was read from Dr. G. Hartlaub, For. Member, containing a review of the species of birds of the genus *Cursorius*.—A communication was read from Dr. Alexander Carte, containing notes on a rare deep-sea fish (*Chiasmodon niger*, Johns) from the West Indies.—Two papers were read by Mr. A. G. Butler, entitled "Descriptions of some New Exotic Butterflies," and "A Monograph of the Diurnal Lepidoptera belonging to the genus *Danaus*."—Mr. Osbert Salvin pointed out the characters of seven new species of birds recently received from Veraguas, Central America.—Mr. Selater exhibited a specimen of a supposed new species of American Cuckoo, of the genus *Neomorphus*, from Veraguas, which he proposed to call *Neomorphus salvini*.—Dr. J. E. Gray communicated a revision of the genera of the Pteropine bats; to which were added descriptions of three species of this group of animals considered to be new to science.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL.—Jan. 30.—The meeting was held at Cordwainers' Hall, Cannon Street. The Lord Mayor in the chair.

Mr. Francis exhibited and described the objects of interest in the possession of the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers, which are few, the Company having been forced to sell all their plate soon after the great fire of London, to repair their losses by that calamity. Their grant of arms was exhibited, and also a deed connected with some of their property in Southwark, to which a person named Shakespeare was a witness. Originally, the shoemakers were confined to the district immediately surrounding the hall of their Company. Very early in their history, they were involved in a succession of disputes with the Cobblers' Company, and an amusing series of stringent regulations had to be drawn up, which Mr. Francis read to the meeting, distinguishing between the rights of the workers in old leather and those of the Cordwainers, who were prohibited from using it. At the conclusion of Mr. Francis's paper, the Lord Mayor left the chair, which was taken by Mr. Tite.—Professor Lewis then read a paper describing the progress made in the restoration of the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew, in Smithfield, under his superintendence.—Mr. Alfred White stated that he had in his possession some bosses from a portion of the church, which fell some years ago, and placed them at the service of the restorers, if it was found they could be made of use.—Mr. Durrant Cooper, referring to a remark made by Mr. Francis, that the seat of the shoemaking trade in London had been originally in Corviser Street, said that the word "Cordwainer" was a comparatively modern corruption, having reference probably to the Cordovan leather used in the trade, but "Corviser" was the correct old English word for shoemaker.

The meeting then adjourned to Herald's College, and inspected the Court of Chivalry and the Library, where the choicest of the treasures it contains were laid open for inspection. Among these were the Rous Roll, a Tournament Roll of Henry VIII., and numerous volumes of arms and pedigrees. The sword, dagger, and turquoise ring found on the Scottish King at Flodden field were also exhibited. Mr. Planché and Mr. Black described the objects contained in the room, and Mr. Black gave a short account of the history of the college.

The society then proceeded to St. Bartholomew's, where the restoration appears to be progressing very satisfactorily in every sense, the ancient fabric having been disturbed as little as possible. The lower portion of the apse has been restored, but unfortunately, a neighbouring freeholder had been permitted, about a couple of centuries ago, to encroach upon the church, and it has been found impossible to bring him to terms that were within the means of the Restoration Committee. The aisles have been cleared out, the modern flooring removed, and the noble proportions of the church (which was only the chancel of that of Rabere, the nave having been long destroyed) made once more visible.

A few of the members and visitors dined together afterwards, when Mr. Black took occasion to contrast the vitality that still exists in the College of Arms, and the important services it still renders, with the forgetfulness of their ancient duties and privileges shown by the

neighbouring College of Advocates of the Civil Law, when they consented to the extinction of their corporation.

ANTIQUARIES.—Jan. 18.—Mr. Ouvry, Treasurer, in the chair.—Mr. J. W. Alexander exhibited a Dutch Episcopal armorial tile found in the City of London.—The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe communicated some remarks on a disputed inscription on a church bell at Challacombe.—Mr. Jenkins, one of the local secretaries for Kent, contributed an account of recent discoveries in this district, upon which Mr. Black and Mr. Bloxam offered some remarks.—The Abbé Cochet exhibited a drawing of a statue of William the Conqueror, at St. Victor l'Abbaye, near Dieppe, and communicated a long and interesting paper on the subject.—Captain Swan contributed a paper on the rock tombs discovered in the island of Malta; and Dr. Thurnam some anthropological remarks on the human remains they contained, which were read by the Director, Mr. Franks.

Jan. 25.—Mr. Franks, Director, in the chair. Mr. Franks communicated to the society the discovery at Perigord, by M. Lartet, of a drawing of a mammoth upon an elephant's tusk, which it is assumed must have been the work of a man contemporary with the object he depicted.—Mr. Black exhibited a curious specimen of bookbinding of the fifteenth century.—Mr. Franks exhibited a grotesque human figure, engraved on a disc of bone, found in the City of London.—Mr. Perceval read a paper, contributed by Mr. Harrod, on the expenses of royal funerals.—Mr. Almack exhibited a deed of composition executed in the thirteenth century, between Boniface, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester. The seals were enclosed in pouches specially made for them, which Mr. Shaw pronounced to be not earlier than the fourteenth century.—Mr. Spencer Perceval read a paper on the shields of arms in Westminster Abbey, founded on a manuscript in the possession of Sir Thomas Phillips.

Feb. 1.—Mr. Tite in the chair. Mr. Featherstone exhibited three posy rings found in Warwickshire.—Mr. Franks exhibited some bronze celts and other objects found at Kensington, at a place which he was not prepared more particularly to indicate, having hopes of finding some more.—The Hon. and Rev. Douglas Gordon exhibited an object of bronze, formerly in the possession of the late Lord Aberdeen, which was pronounced by the director and Mr. Tite to be of late Roman workmanship. It was a figure of a fisherman, resting upon a pedestal, and at the side two human fingers so bent as to allow a rope to pass through—probably an ornament of some small boat.—Mr. E. Payne contributed a description of a Roman villa found at High Wycombe; and the Rev. C. Lowndes exhibited some Anglo-Saxon remains from Hartwell, both in the county of Bucks.—Mr. Harrod read a paper on the murrain of the 14th century, founded on extracts from the court rolls of the Manor of Heacham, in Norfolk. It appears to have attacked sheep most severely; but to have also affected poultry, and even bees. Of the sheep in one year nearly fifty per cent. died. Presentments were made to the manor court from time to time of the results of the pestilence, and special officers appointed to deal with them; among others, "cadaverators," who were sworn to get rid of the carcasses, and in most instances sold them. Little attempt was made to cure or even to isolate the animals attacked. The original rolls were exhibited to the Society, by permission of Mr. Le Strange, their proprietor.—Mr. Franks communicated to the Society an account of the acquisitions made during the past year by the British Museum in the department of British Antiquities, accompanied by drawings of a few of the more remarkable objects. Among these were the remains found in the Heathery Burn Cave, at Durham; and a curious Roman glass bottle with a division down the middle, so as to contain two liquors, found in London.

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL, MANCHESTER.—Dec. 12.—R. Angus Smith, F.R.S., &c., President, in the chair.

Mr. J. Bottomley said that a recent paper upon the employment of the internal heat of the earth led him to consider what might be the condition of the atmosphere when coal, lignite, anthracite, and all other forms of vegetable fuel should be so exhausted that the human race would be compelled to resort to this source of heat. The numbers obtained led him to the conclusion that the exhaustion of the coal-fields

implied more than the depriving of the human race of a ready source of warmth—namely, the alteration of the atmosphere to an extent that would ultimately prove fatal. As the latter assumption seemed to him to be repugnant to reason, he would infer that long before the exhaustion of the coal fields, the carbonic acid in the atmosphere beyond the limits of safety to life, would have been decomposed by vegetation; moreover, as plants decomposed water, there would always be some combustible compound of carbon and hydrogen; in other words, there will and must be abundance of fuel in the world in all ages, if not of so dense a character as anthracite and coal, yet of some nature intermediate between those fuels and vegetable tissue, the origin of all varieties. The argument employed was entirely teleological; but until we are assured that no other species will ever succeed mankind on the earth, it seems scarcely scientific to predict the future components of the air entirely on that supposition.

A paper was read entitled "Notes on the Origin of Several Mechanical Inventions, and their subsequent Application to Different Purposes." Part II. By J. C. Dyer, V.P.

The Employment of Steel for Transferring Engravings.—At the beginning of this century, upon the death of Washington, medals to commemorate that event being called for, Mr. Jacob Perkins (then a silversmith at Newbury Port, near Boston) undertook to supply them, and, as they were required in large numbers speedily, he devised a summary process of transferring the engraved design, from prepared steel dies or stamps, by which he obtained several from one original die, and thus a vast number of medals were rapidly produced. Shortly after Mr. Perkins applied the same principle to transferring engravings for bank notes, on which very elaborate designs were printed to prevent or render their being forged very difficult by the hand of the engraver. To effect this, he procured cast-steel plates, and decarbonated their surfaces to the depth of about one-sixteenth of an inch, which were thus converted into a very soft and pure iron; the letters and designs for the notes being then engraved upon them they were case-hardened and tempered for use, but in lieu of printing from these plates they were used as dies for making others to print with. His next process was to prepare a cast-steel cylinder, which in like manner was decarbonated at the surface, and then, under a strong traversing pressure, it was rolled over the letters and figures engraved on the hardened plate, and these engravings were taken up in relief on the surface of the soft cylinder. This cylinder being then hardened and tempered, was used to transfer, by means of the same traversing pressure, the entire work upon its surface, to any number of copper or soft steel plates for printing with.

The adoption of this plan by several banks, for having very elaborate engravings on their notes, turned the counterfeiters upon other banks whose notes would be so much more readily forged, which led to an extended demand by the other banks.

In the year 1809 Mr. Perkins communicated to me the details of his process of transferring engravings, with a view to having the invention patented in England for our joint account. From the success of his plan in America, its adoption here was anticipated, and still further development of it looked for from the higher state of the graphic arts in London. With this view I took out patents, and minutely specified "the method of carrying the invention into effect." A very beautiful design was then obtained from the classic pencil of the late Sir R. Smirk, R.A., which was engraved by Reimback, on prepared steel, for printing bank notes. But I could not succeed at that time in inducing the Bank of England or any other bank to adopt the plan, nor could the booksellers then be made to perceive the importance of the transferring system for illustrating books, for which it has since been so extensively used. The time had not arrived when public attention could be drawn to the bank-note forgeries as a national evil, and the disgrace of hanging men for a feat so readily performed as that of forging the one-pound notes then in general circulation. If any excuse can be offered for this apathy, it may be said that the passions and interests connected with the war, together with those yet more embarrassing that arose from the transitions from war to peace, caused such disturbances in the circulating medium and in the general interests of commerce and industry, that it became very difficult to awaken public attention to the great scandal of relying solely upon the gallows for preventing forgeries.



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It has been above shown that Perkins' invention was not for engraving on steel plates for printing, nor for engraving upon steel at all, but rather for engraving on soft iron of homogeneous structure. It was found that all wrought iron is more or less fibrous and unfit to receive delicate engravings, and that by decarbonating the surface of cast steel a pure iron surface was obtained, and this being engraved on, was case-hardened and used for transferring and printing as before stated. His method of obtaining soft iron surfaces to receive the work, converting these surfaces back into steel, and then transferring the engravings to other plates for printing, comprised together a series of novel processes which confer lasting honour upon the inventor.

After the transition period, having better hopes of success, I recommended Mr. Perkins to come over himself to explain his system and aid the artists here in putting it into operation. Accordingly in the year 1820 Mr. Perkins came to England, and being over-sanguine, brought a large staff of able artists, mechanics, &c., but he could not bring any money to aid in establishing his intended works in London. He had assumed that capital could always be obtained in England for conducting any safe and profitable schemes. Now the matter of proving his to be such was not easy to establish with the moneyed class; so to me alone, not of that class, he had to look for the entire expenses of his mission, and this I could only bear for a few months. After some time the late Mr. Charles Heath, the eminent engraver, was induced to join Mr. Perkins, and become a partner in the engraving works, which were then commenced in Fleet Street, and are still continued by their successors.

Besides the printing on paper, Mr. Perkins' system of transferring has been since very extensively employed for calico printing, and in later years we have also seen his process employed to a vast extent in many other departments of the graphic art, such as post-office and receipt stamps, and other prints that are required in greater numbers than could be produced by other than steel plates or stamps. His system of engraving on steel has at length become a great artistic power, the wide-spread increase of which has given employment to labour and capital to a vast extent in the several branches of art before stated, and from which I believe many large fortunes have been made, but little other than "toil and trouble" ever accrued to the inventor of them.

When any important discoveries in physical science are made, they never die, whatever may chance to their authors. The new facts brought before the public go forth like seeds cast upon a fertile soil, yielding the fruits of continual progress among the families of men who seek improvement. It seems only just, then, that each generation should transmit to the next some record of the names of those contemporaries to whose genius and talents all nations are indebted for such discoveries. Wherefore, in addition to the four distinguished inventors brought to the notice of this society in my former papers, I have in the present one aimed to place that of Jacob Perkins as a worthy contributor to the advance of those branches of art to which his inventions have been applied.

Two interesting appendices to the paper consisted of an account of Mr. Perkins' researches "On the Compression of Water" and on his "Steam Gun."

*Physical and Mathematical Section.*—Dec. 7.—Mr. E. W. Binney, F.R.S., President of the Section, in the chair.

A paper was read "On the November Meteors, as observed at Woodcroft, Cuckfield, Sussex, November 12—13, 1865," by Mr. George Knott, F.R.A.S., communicated by Mr. Joseph Baxendell, F.R.A.S.

"The night of November 12th being fine, Mrs. Knott and myself were enabled to watch under favourable circumstances for the meteor-shower, of which warning had been given at the last meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society.

"Between 12h. and 1h. A.M., we counted thirty-nine meteors, giving an average of rather more than 0.6 per minute; the next 55m. added sixty-one to the number, giving an average of 1.1 per minute. After half-an-hour's interval we resumed our watch at 2h. 25m. A.M., and between that hour and 3h. 5m., when we ceased observing, we noted fifty-five meteors, showing that the average had risen to 1.4 per minute. The observations of the last forty minutes showed clearly that the radiant point was in the immediate vicinity of the star  $\zeta$  Leonis, or, perhaps, between that star and  $\epsilon$  and  $\mu$  of the same constellation—the neighbourhood, in fact, of what the Rev. C. Pritchard happily terms the 'apex of the earth's way.' The paths of a few meteors seemed to suggest a second radiant point in the neighbourhood of  $\beta$  Tauri, but the observed flights were too few to afford satisfactory evidence on the point.

"We remarked a strong tendency of the meteors to occur in groups, four or five, and in some cases more, appearing one after the other in quick succession, followed by a lull, during which none were seen. We did not notice any of very remarkable brilliancy, they ranged for the most part from that of stars of the first magnitude downwards, in the majority of instances leaving a train behind them, which, in several cases, remained visible for some little time after the main body of the meteor had disappeared."

The position of Mr. Knott's Observatory is lat.  $51^{\circ} 0' 41''$  N., long.  $0^{\circ} 0' 34''$  W.  
Jan. 9.—Dr. R. Angus Smith, F.R.S., &c., President, in the chair.  
Mr. Eddowes Bowman, M.A., gave an extended series of striking illustrations of the principal phenomena of polarized light.

*Photographical Section.*—Dec. 14.—Dr. J. P. Joule, F.R.S., Vice-President of the Section, in the chair.  
Mr. Joseph Sidebotham read a paper "On the Application of Measuring Rods to Photographic Pictures."

Professor C. Piazzi Smyth had made use of this plan at the Great Pyramid last winter, and a selection of forty of his pictures was exhibited to the members in illustration by the oxyhydrogen light on the screen, and were admirable photographs. They consisted of a series of views of the exterior and interior of the tomb of King Shafra, recently excavated near the Great Sphynx. A series of four of these, taken to show the correct orientation of one of the passages, are very remarkable, having been taken two minutes before twelve, twelve o'clock, and two minutes past, true astronomical time. Views were also exhibited of the entrance to the Great Pyramid, the socket in which the corner-stone had rested, also views of the niche in Queen's Chamber, and the mysterious coffer in the so-called King's Chamber, the object of so much interest and speculation. These interior views were taken by the aid of the magnesium light, and are very good photographs. The divisions on the measuring rods surrounding the coffer are exceedingly plain, and by the application of a pair of compasses a tolerably correct measurement may be obtained.

A paper was then read "On Celestial Photography," by A. Brothers, F.R.A.S.

*Physical and Mathematical Section.*—Jan. 4.—E. W. Binney, F.R.S., President of the Section, in the chair.

Mr. G. V. Vernon was elected Honorary Secretary of the Section.

Mr. Vernon communicated some "Remarks on the Barometric Disturbances during the Months of October, November, and December, 1865."

Mr. Baxendell, F.R.A.S., read a "Note on the Variable Star T Aquilæ."

## MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.

### MONDAY.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS, 8.  
GEOGRAPHICAL, 8.30.—"Ascent of the River Purus, a Tributary of the Amazon," Mr. W. Chandless.

### TUESDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—"On Heat," Professor Tyndall.  
SYRO-EGYPTIAN, 7.30.—"On the Date of the Book of Daniel," Mr. Samuel Sharpe; "The Monument of Sesostris near Nymphæum," Mr. Hyde Clarke.  
ENGINEERS, 8.—"On the Principles to be Observed in the Designing and Laying-out of Terminal and other Railway Stations, Repairing Shops, Engine Sheds, &c., with Reference to the Traffic and the Rolling Stock," Mr. William Humber.  
ETHNOLOGICAL, 8.—"On the Physical and Mental Characteristics of the European and Asiatic Races of Man," Mr. Crawford; "Notes and Sketches on the Niger," Mr. T. Valentine Robins.  
ZOOLOGICAL, 8.30.—"Description of a New Species of Monoceros Worm," Dr. W. Baird; "On an Undescribed Species of Petrel, from Jamaica," Dr. A. Carte; and other papers.

### WEDNESDAY.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, 8.  
MICROSCOPICAL, 8.—Anniversary.

### THURSDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—"On Heat," Professor Tyndall.  
NUMISMATIC, 7.  
LINNEAN, 8.—"On the Probable Fossil Origin, and the Geographical Distribution, of Gum Copal in Angola," Dr. Wolwitsch.  
CHEMICAL, 8.—"On the Action of Nitrous Acid upon Naphthylamine."  
ROYAL, 8.30.  
ANTIQUARIES, 8.30.

### FRIDAY.

GEOLOGICAL, 1.—Anniversary.  
ROYAL INSTITUTION, 8.—"On the Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem," Colonel Sir H. James.  
PHILOLOGICAL, 8.15.—"On Some Latin Words to be Explained from Keltic Sources," Rev. John Davies.

SATURDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—"On Art Education, and How Works of Art Should be Viewed," Professor Westmacott.

## ART.

### THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

REFERRING to the admirable "Recollections of the British Institution," by Mr. Thomas Smith, we find that it was established sixty years ago, under the patronage of His Majesty George III., "to encourage the talents of the artists of the United Kingdom, so as to improve and extend our manufactures by that degree of taste and elegance of design which are to be exclusively derived from the cultivation of the Fine Arts; and thereby to increase the general prosperity and resources of the empire." Glancing over the history of the Institution, we find that there is scarcely a painter of eminence among us who has not commenced his artistic career in its walls; and even now Academicians of long standing and of the highest repute are pleased to enrol their names from time to time among its contributors. But it is chiefly as a nursery for young and unknown artists, and, not unfrequently, as a refuge for men whose claims are not so readily recognized elsewhere as one could wish sometimes, that the Institution is famous; and, in glancing over the present collection, it is to their works that our attention will be principally directed.

The exhibition consists of six hundred and forty-eight works, of which a dozen belong to sculpture; and about four hundred artists have been occupied more or less successfully in their production.

The place of honour in the north room, with which the catalogue begins, is occupied by E. W. Cooke's marine picture of "The Arrival of Otho, ex-King of Greece, at Venice, in 1862." The drawing, whether as regards the ships or the architecture, appears careful and correct, and the general effect is animated and pleasing. The "Othello and Desdemona" of T. F. Dicksee is, like the rest of his contributions, elaborated to a nicety which becomes almost painful; and, beautiful though his "Titania and Psyche" undoubtedly are, one wishes that a painter so careful would abandon a style in which he has already done all that can be done, and adopt one more robust, and, we cannot help thinking, more consistent with nature. This deficiency in the matter of texture is also apparent, though not in the same degree or manner, in the works of W. E. Frost. We are never tired of looking at his "Nymphs and Cupids," and would like them still more were the texture of their surroundings more forcibly discriminated.

We are enabled readily to recognize "Whitby Harbour," by E. J. Nieman's representation of it, and we should be perfectly reconciled to his manner did he only allow us a little more breathing space. His other pictures are also deficient in atmosphere. As a powerful expresser of this quality, we would point to A. R. Mignot. His "Table-lands of Rio Bamba, Ecuador" (55), with the seething mist covering the terrible chasm in the foreground, and the tropical light and heat diffusing themselves through the whole picture, is a wonderfully imposing work, and possesses all the attributes of true art. The great landscape painter, Church, of whom the Americans are so justly proud, was the first to show the way in this particular field of art, but he lacks the grasp of Mignot. That he is not unfamiliar with the greenery of temperate climes, and is equally happy in reproducing them on the canvas, we would point to his very charming bit from the "Woods at Richmond" (537). Elijah Walton, an English artist, aspires to similar themes with the potent Frenchman; and, although the former scarcely succeeds in rivaling the latter, we are inclined to rate his artistic powers highly. The foreground of his "Encampment on the Road to Sinai—Sunset," (491), is masterly in no ordinary degree, and were it not for those pink darts shooting towards the zenith, which the artist means for rays, we should be inclined to award him our highest praise. We can scarcely imagine such rays true in colour, especially as we see a disposition to use a similar tint in a somewhat similar way in his snow-capped "Monte Viso" picture, where the scene is laid so much farther north, and where the time is "early morning." If, again, he meant all this to produce the effect of light, he scarcely succeeds. The "sunset" in the first picture, with the exception of a slight tendency to rankness close upon the horizon, is magnificent.

Frank Dillon, though not seen here on so ambitious a scale as either of the two last named



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artists, is also a master in everything pertaining to the expression of atmosphere. Of late years he has made Egypt his field of observation, and the various phenomena of light and air peculiar to that region he has made almost his own. "The Last Journey" (242), in which we see one of those boats, specially set apart for the purpose, conveying across the waters of the Nile the carefully-embalmed body of some faithful worshipper of Isis, is a thoughtful and highly artistic production. Nothing can exceed the solemnity of the scene, and the glory of the sunset gives to it a religious suggestiveness. His other work, "Philoë from the East" (84), with an early sun effect, is studied with equal care and success. The boat in the former picture was studied, we believe, in the British Museum. J. Danby also knows how to treat atmosphere, as our readers will see by referring to his "Elizabeth Castle, Jersey" (195); and, although W. J. Roffe's "Mount St. Michael, Normandy" (324), is scarcely so pronounced as we could wish, it belongs to the same school, and shows a fine appreciation of the proper treatment of level sands and of distance generally. Every half-inch of canvas tells, and every single object takes its proper place.

Returning to the north room, we find in J. T. Peele's "Cherry Ripe" (35) a pleasant recollection of Sir Joshua Closeby, are two very honest and cleanly-painted studies of Irish and French girls, from the pencil of C. S. Lidderdale, one of G. E. Herinz charming little landscapes, "Mentone" (19); near it J. Hardy's "Feeding Rabbits" (20), a careful performance; and near it an equally careful donkey composition by H. Weekes, with which we may couple W. Luker's "Danger Near" (65), rabbit and young ones. T. Danby's "View in North Wales, with Cattle" (22), is worth this artist's reputation; and one of the best-felt pictures of the cabinet size in this part of the gallery is Walter Field's "Long Day" (25.)

In the higher walks of figure painting, we come upon Edwin Long's "Anthem," two noble Spanish girls listening in the vestibule of the Church to the solemn strains of the organ. This artist's "Shepherds in the Mountains of Toledo" (483), in which we see an animated story-teller before the blazing fire of a rudely extemporized hut, surrounded by eager listeners, is one of the most dashing and effective things we have yet seen from his pencil; and, although he is a long way behind the English Velasquez in solidity, tone, and colour, he advances apace, and the present work is not without indications of coming independence and individuality. John Gilbert's "Trumpeter" (76) is of course all that a trumpeter of that period should be.

But of all the pictures in this room, especially of the genre order, John Stirling's "Village Tailor" (162) is most deserving attention. The composition of the figure and of the surroundings thereof is admirable, and the tone of the interior well considered and carried out with true artistic feeling. This painter's "Visit to the Old Fireside" (360), in the next room, is equally worthy of admiration. The head of the baby on the grandfather's knee is a little study of itself, so carefully is it modelled; the story, too, is capitally told; and the picture altogether is one of the best which ever emanated from the school, and the school is one of our best. The artist, we observe, attaches to his name the letters A.M., may he soon be able to add the more potent ones of R.A.

Almost opposite to this work hangs "The Return" (308), by W. Cave Thomas. It belongs to ecclesiastical art of the higher kind; and, although of a comparatively small size, there is no doubt the study of a work intended to be of mural dimensions. The Prodigal, semi-nude, approaches with outstretched arms the venerable man, his father, who has come to the door of his stately pillared mansion to welcome him. The drawing here is severe, and the motive well expressed; but we scarcely think the artist has been equally thoughtful throughout. After, for instance, remodelling so successfully the blue robe of the father, why was he so careless with the red drapery of the son? He might have made it to follow the figure or to conceal it; but in neither case would it have looked like this. Has he not, moreover, isolated the red and the blue too much, and painted them with too opaque a brush? Is the line of the boy's spine anatomically true? It strikes us as too straight. We put these questions in no hyper-critical spirit, but from the simple conviction that the works of a fresco painter of Mr. Cave Thomas's reputation and known ability requires to be looked at and judged. He would rather this, we hope, than be damned with

faint praise. What, by-the-bye, is the religious significance of the glass pillars which Mr. Thomas has painted so clearly?

"The Toper's Dilemma" (197), by A. Ludovici, is a very humorous rendering of the Old German song:—

Moon, what a comical face dost thou make,  
One of thine eyes asleep, t'other awake.  
All things around me are whirling about.  
One sober man alone, dare I come out?  
That seems too venturesome, almost a sin,  
Think I had better go back to the inn!

The picture reminds us of the works of J. Weekes, who is well represented in the present gallery, and is only equalled in comicality by J. A. Houston's very clever "Hans Snaphaus, of the Commissariat" (283).

Some of the details of R. F. Patten's "Belle of the Market" (186), after the manner of Phillip, are well carried out; and "The Young Royalist" (198), by W. F. Yeames, is painted with a wonderfully careful brush throughout. J. W. Bottomley's "Beagle Puppy" (203), and Aster Corbould's "West Highland Scots" (298), are both admirable. J. T. Lucas, in his "Going to the Fair" (201), is slightly suggestive of Erskine Nicol. T. G. Linnell has a couple of landscapes (232 and 366), worthy the family reputation; and to G. Cole's "Rough Road over the Heath" (287), we would apply the same remark. Alexander Johnston's "Nutting" (266), a life-sized figure of a handsome woman, is charming in subject and rich in colour.

Near it hangs a work with which we are mightily pleased. It is from the pencil of F. W. W. Topham; and what more can we say, than that it is worthy of his father's son. "Glaucus and Nydia" (271) is taken from Bulwer's "Last Days of Pompeii." The former reclines on a rich couch, while Nydia sits on the ground, surrounded with roses. Green, pink, and orange are the leading colours in one sense; and the manner in which he leads from and up to them, blending, diffusing, opposing, and resolving, attracts, and yet soothes the eye. He must not imagine from this that we regard him as a perfect colourist. He has much to do yet. Certain crudenesses crop out occasionally, which have to be subdued, and his general tone has to be more firmly pronounced. The work, all in all, is well painted; and, from what indications of colour we already see, we are inclined to augur high destinies for the artist.

We are not altogether satisfied with Charles Lucy's "Margaret of Anjou," or rather with the prince whom she presents to the robber. The boy is evidently touched in the spine. At first we thought the tunic was too short, but by-and-bye we came to the other conclusion. This is an oversight the artist can remedy. The rest of the picture is very pleasing. His "Religious Emigrants in the Time of Charles I.," is a capital sketch. Mr. Jones Barker also contributes a couple of works—"Little Bo'peep" (397), a sweet pastoral, and "The Young Patriot's Return" (413), illustrating an interesting episode in the Italian War. A youth of pleasing face and comely proportions is being conveyed home wounded in the donkey-cart of his little brother. Near the young hero is his sister or sweetheart, and alongside the improvised ambulance walks a stalwart and grizzly soldier. We see the winding road by which they have travelled, and can mark the return of the patriots for many a mile. The composition of the whole subject has been carefully studied; but, if we were to take objection to any part, it would be to the leading of the peculiar blue grey of the donkey over so much of the picture. The immediate foreground, too, is painted with what one might call too clean a brush.

C. E. Perugini has sent a very successful study of a pretty girl reading under a parasol; and near it, to the right, is Robert Collinson's wonderfully elaborated "English Solitude" (301). J. W. Oakes sends a fine open-air looking picture of "Market Boats at Stresa" (382); and Henry Darvall sends a clever study of "Dittisham on the Dart" (71), which has also an out-of-door look. Mr. G. C. Stanfield sends a couple of characteristic pictures, of which we think the "Abbey of Arnstein" (320) the more desirable. It possesses more atmosphere, and is not quite so mannered as the other. H. K. Browne is striving hard after colour, and if the thing is to be acquired he seems determined to acquire it. Girardot's "Rejected Sonnet" (150) is one of the most carefully-painted pictures we ever saw of his. His modelling of the arms of the two girls is as perfect as one could wish. The picture, moreover, is well composed. Mr. Hayllar, who has done clever things before now, is disappointing, and almost vulgar in the present exhibition. We allude more particularly to his

"Two Girls Rowing on the Thames" (571). J. J. Napier in his "Polly" has had, as regards colour and subject, Mr. Leighton strongly in his eye. In fruit pictures we commend strongly those of Miss E. H. Stannard (149), W. Hughes (248), C. Stuart (254), and W. H. Smith (392). Nor must we forget to name the "Dutch Wedding" (628), by Miss Kate Swift; nor the "Young Fishers" (598), by C. J. Lewis. Mr. A. W. Williams should have remembered that the hills above Glencoe were covered with snow during the massacre. He must give his clever picture another name—"The Whiskey Smugglers," for instance.

In sculpture, the Messrs. Physich are the principal contributors. Mr. Sherwood Westmacott sends a very fair representation of "Autumn" (648); and in 647 we have a similar subject somewhat differently treated by R. Jackson. Mr. C. M'Carthy's famous greyhound is pronounced and clever. Miss Alice Thornycroft's "Edith in Search of Harold" (645) is a sketch in plaster, which reflects on her great credit. The expression of Edith's face conveys the idea of loving eagerness, while the figure, with its action, is dignified and heroic. Mr. T. Duckett has been very happy in his group of the "Sister Putting on the Stocking of her Little Brother" (637). The figures compose well, and the modelling is good and satisfying all round. There is not a more loyal piece of sculpture in the room, and we rate the abilities of the artist high.

In this rapid glance at the contents of the present gallery, we have omitted many names which deserved attention. The exigencies of space, and not lack of will, have made this necessary. The same reason obliges us to defer our remarks on the General Exhibition of Water Colours till next week.

## ART CORRESPONDENCE.

### WINSTON'S GLASS PAINTING.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—In the second of your two very interesting articles upon glass-painting in the READER of the 13th of January last, you remark that Mr. Winston has somewhat exaggerated the value of modern German painted glass. "Few men," you add, "are strong enough to be wholly uninfluenced by opposition." You are of course referring to Mr. Winston's observations upon the Glasgow windows, and it is also apparent from what follows that you suppose that those windows are executed in the same manner as the specimen in the South Kensington Museum, attributed, but erroneously so, to the Chevalier Maximilien Ailmüller. That specimen was procured at my request by an eminent English architect, then in Munich, for the collection in Somerset House, to the best of my recollection in 1844 or 1845. It is therefore an example of the method followed by one of the Munich artists, who painted upon glass, more than twenty years ago. No criticism based upon this small and unimportant work is applicable to the entire school of glass-painters, and certainly not so to the Glasgow windows, which resemble it in no respect, and is as little applicable to Mr. Winston's remarks upon those windows. Familiar with the example in question, and many others by Munich artists, in which there is a tendency to overwork, when I prepared the specification for the windows for Glasgow, I made use of the following expressions: "It is a common objection in this country to the glass-paintings executed at Munich that the glass loses its brilliancy and much of its power by the practice of subduing the high lights either by soft shading or by enamel ground on the back of the glass. The committee are aware that this practice is defended by the desire of imparting to the modern too pellucid material somewhat of the substance which an imperfect manufacture and age combined have imparted to the ancient material. But nothing can compensate for the want of clear lights and consequent loss of brilliancy."

There can be no doubt whatever that the Munich artists, in executing the Glasgow windows, with one or two exceptions at once brought to their notice, and subsequently referred to by Mr. Winston, faithfully adhered to these instructions; and it is equally certain that no purer or more entirely honest mosaic windows have been produced since the Cinque Cento, the last great age of glass-painting. So early as 1852 the honesty of the work of the Munich artists, as contrasted with all other schools, was noticed by Mr. Winston, and is specially alluded to in one of his letters to me. We published the



# THE READER.

10 FEBRUARY, 1866.

same instructions for the guidance of such British artists as we have employed in some portions of the cathedral, but it will be found on several of their windows that they have smudged parts of the back of the glass with enamel to give an artificial solidity. Of this, which I regard simply as a trick, there is not an instance in the Munich glass, every foot of which I have examined as it was unpacked. The windows are pure mosaics; the shadows, with the very few exceptions adverted to, are painted with enamel brown, and all are transparent. They never are black or heavy, and are executed with skill and taste; the lights are the pure pot metal or coated glass, with no attempt whatever to give an artificial solidity. Mr. Winston based his remarks, as may clearly be seen from their tenor, upon these facts, and his evidence upon a subject upon which he was so competent a judge is invaluable, and is not, permit me to add, the result of prejudice or opposition, but is, like all that he ever said in his life, truthful and honest. Had he found our windows painted like the trifling specimen at South Kensington he never would have written of them as he has done.—Your very obedient servant,

CHARLES HEATH WILSON.

29 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow.  
Feb. 5th, 1866.

## MUSIC.

### MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.

MR. LESLIE and his vocal corps are working as hard, and singing as well, as ever. After ten campaigns, the enthusiasm of both commander and troops seems unabated. They have given, he tells us, sixty-four concerts, and sung nine hundred and eighty-two compositions. "Above one hundred of these have been presented to the public for the first time," and many more were so rarely performed, except in private, that they might virtually be considered as novelties. This is certainly a satisfactory return of work done—work, happily, which has been pleasure to the doers of it; if it were not so, we believe it could not have been done at all—and work the fruit of which is something more than the enjoyment given to the actual listeners at the concerts. Mr. Leslie's choir struck in at a crisis in our English musical revival, and determined that in this particular branch of music they would try what *might* be done by steady work and real enthusiasm; and their trying has given us what, for the present at least, we must regard as a standard of executive perfection. We really do not think that, except under practically impossible conditions, any body of singers is likely to arise, who can sing better than Mr. Leslie's. If a chorus of prima donnas and first tenors, &c., in which Sherringtons, Titiens, and Marios were the units, could be got together, and made to undergo a little training, some amazing effects of tone would be produced. Perhaps, for the fun of the thing, this may be done some day at one of our Grand Universal Artistic and Industrial Exhibitions, in the Champ de Mars or elsewhere—but, except by assembling such an army of phenomena it is hard to see how our present standard of choral perfection can be outdone. Moreover a choir of soloists—if one may speculate for a moment on a mere fancy—would be a violation of the moral law of art—a waste, a criminal excess, like the Roman Emperor's pie of peacock's tongues, or Cleopatra's pearl broth. One of the distinguishing merits of choral music is, that it is a means of producing the most beautiful results out of the simplest materials. Nearly every human being can sing, and even the rudest singers, with a little training, can be made to produce very pleasant music; better than any that instruments can make without an infinite outlay of labour. Choral singing is emphatically the music of the people; and one of the many ways in which a choir like Mr. Leslie's is of service is by keeping before the people a type of superlative excellence, certainly excellence, which they can imitate in kind, though they may fall far short of it in degree.

The programme of the first concert given by the choir this season was not a specially attractive one. The selection of pieces seemed rambling and miscellaneous. The words "Madrigal Concert" had appeared in the advertisements, but of genuine madrigals there were but two, or say, including Pearsall's "Light of my soul," three. Surely, Mr. Leslie, this is giving short allowance of the very thing you do best, and we, the public, like best. It is true that many a milk-and-water part-song, daintily sung, will be saluted with a

heavier volley of applause than the most learned counterpoint of Weelkes or Wilbye; but then please remember that this is about our only chance of hearing Weelkes and Wilbye, while the mild part-song can be had on most days of the week at the drawing-room glee party, or the popular concert. Moreover, why should you not treat us to more of the simpler sort of madrigal music, those delightfully tender or joyous love ditties, and those innocent old "fallals," which were the "table songs" of our forefathers, and which can never fail to delight, so long as the ears of men retain their sensibility to the pure elements of music? Every concert, it seems to us, might well include two or three of those old favourites, to have which we should not be sorry to give up, if necessary, one or two of the many novelties from the hands of contemporary composers. At the risk of seeming unreasonable, we cannot repress this little grumble. A choir which makes a free gift of its labour to the public, may well take the privilege of singing what it likes best; but there is no harm in knowing what is the listeners' predilection, and in this point we are pretty certain that we speak the general feeling.

Of the way in which the choir sang at this first concert there is nothing to be said but praise. The two madrigals above mentioned were the chief triumphs. One was a difficult, but most beautiful, specimen of the intricate contrapuntal ("Oriana") school, "As Vesta was," by Weelkes, a piece abounding in critical points, where the slightest slip would be destruction. For exquisite rendering of light and shade, decision, delicacy, entire command of the *pianissimo*, and every other excellence which choral singing can show, the singing of this was perfect. The other was "Flow, oh my tears" (Bennett), one of those strangely woven webs of slow harmony in which these old masters so delighted—a piece with next to no melody in it, only a mysterious succession of long-drawn chords, "sweet and low." It was sung, or rather breathed, throughout in a perfect *pianissimo*, relieved by one or two bursts of fuller tone. This was, perhaps, the most remarkable performance of the evening. Listening to such singing one wonders first at the beauty of it, and next at the patience and enthusiasm on the part of both leader and led, which can alone carry them through the labour required to produce such a perfect result. Of the new pieces sung, one of the most beautiful was Mr. Leslie's setting of the famous lines from the garden scene of the "Merchant of Venice," "How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank," in which he has used to good purpose the resources of vocal effect, which the admirable training of his choir places at his disposal. A quaint and ingenious "Christmas Carol" (words from Longfellow), by M. Silas, and a part-song by Mr. Smart ("Fair Crocuses and Snowdrops"), the latter welcome for the faultless smoothness of its writer, as also Mr. Benedict's "Wreath," were all much applauded. Another novelty, a choral setting of the 29th Psalm, by a well-known London professor, only made us wonder what could have induced Mr. Leslie to think it worth putting before his choir. The programme was varied as usual by some solo singing. The place of Mr. Reeves, absent through indisposition, was taken by Mr. Wilbye Cooper, and, later in the evening, by Mr. Leigh Wilson. A *débutante*, Miss Ada Jackson, made a favourable impression by her elegant and refined style. For the next concert (March 1), a programme of the usual "Lenten" character is announced. It contains "In Exitu Israel" (Wesley), an "Ave verum" by Gounod, and other good things.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

MUSICAL people who do not read German ought to feel obliged to the producer of some pleasantly written translations from Robert Schumann, which have been appearing in the *Shilling Magazine*. Mendelssohn was a noble example of how great men can treat brother artists, and these papers of Schumann's breathe the same spirit of generous sympathy. Specially noticeable in this way are his notices of the works of Sterndale Bennett and Mendelssohn. He describes the sensation made by the "Paulus" at Vienna, with as much glee as if he were relating a personal triumph. All he has to say about Beethoven and Schubert is worth reading. One of the papers is on the four "Fidelio" overtures; another is an eloquent glorification of Schubert's great Symphony in C. It was a happy thought to put these into English, just when, as the translator says, the music of the composer is beginning to be familiar in our ears.

MDLLE. PATTI is going to try, they say, the part of *Desdemona*, in Rossini's opera. We hope the report is true. There is no reason why this should not be one of the loveliest of her impersonations; and it may, if given here, teach our London public to repent of its cool treatment of this magnificent opera.

BUT that the place assigned for the occurrence is Rome, where nothing is impossible, we should have imagined the story of the performance of "L'Africaine," *without the music*, to be a *canard*. The absurdity seems, however, to have really happened.

A NEW amateur choral society—or is it an already existing body newly constituted?—is announced, under the title of "The Cecilia," with Mr. C. J. Hargitt for conductor. It is to meet on Thursdays, at St. Martin's Hall, for the practice, at first, of unaccompanied part music, with the intention of hereafter singing larger works. Notwithstanding the many societies already existing, there is yet room for many more; though, on purely artistic grounds, we might wish that the profusion of scattered effort could be gathered up into a few channels of more vigorous action.

A NOTE from Dresden thus summarizes the operatic and theatrical performances of the past year in that city: "From the report of the Royal Theatre just published, it appears that there were 325 nights between January 1 and December 31, 1865, on which the house was open to the public, and that during the year no less than 182 different pieces were played, of which 23 were produced for the first time, and 40 were what is called 'neueinstudirt.' Of the 182 different pieces 42 were operas. The total number of performances (three or four smaller pieces being sometimes given on one night) was 452. Shakespeare was performed 17 times, Schiller 16, Goethe 5, Lessing 3, Mozart 20, Meyerbeer 17, Auber 14, Wagner 13, Weber 8, Rossini 6, Donizetti 5, Boieldieu 4, Cherubini 3, Beethoven 2, Bellini 2. There are not many theatres, we should think, where such a variety of really good performances is given. On January 30, in 1850, Meyerbeer's *Prophète* was given for the first time at Dresden; on January 30, 1866, it was given for the 100th time in the Theatre, with a certain amount of commemorative ovation. In the 100 performances the part of the *Prophète* has been taken by Herr Tichatscheck 82 times, and that of the Mother by Frau Krebs Michalesi 95 times; both played their parts in it last Tuesday. Meyerbeer has perhaps more than his lawful share of performance here. Last week we had 'Dinorah'; and for this next week 'Robert' is announced, the only other opera intervening being Auber's 'Teufel's Antheil.' In the performance of 'Dinorah' here, they take advantage of a very commendable feature in the structure of the theatre. The whole of the roof forms a large shallow cistern, which holds sufficient water to flood the theatre a foot deep, in case of fire. This useful provision is converted into a stage ornament in 'Dinorah'; and a real mountain torrent is presented, gratefully refreshing alike to eye and ear. The ordinary flow of the musical stream has recovered itself now from the interruptions of the Christmas and New Year festivities. Among other operas of the month just concluded, we may notice Wagner's 'Rienzi,' Spontini's 'Fernando Cortez,' Auber's 'Masaniello,' and the 'Mason,' Cherubini's 'Waserträger,' Gounod's 'Faust,' 'Fidelio,' and 'Figaro.' The most notable instrumental performances have been Abert's 'Columbus,' Mendelssohn's 'Scotch,' and 'Italian' Symphonies, and Midsummer Night's Dream Music (performed to-day, February 3, in honour of his birthday), Bennett's 'Naiades,' Schumann's 'Genoveva,' and Schubert's magnificent Symphony in C maj.

THE orchestral pieces at the Crystal Palace concert, on Saturday, were Schumann's First Symphony, in B flat, a work now so well known that it is superfluous to say anything as to its merits, and Mendelssohn's lovely 'Melusina' overture. The vocal force was unusually strong, there being a full quartet of soloists: Madame Sherrington (who quite enraptured the audience by her singing of 'Angels ever Bright and Fair'), Miss Whytock, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Renwick. We scarcely ever heard the delightful quartet from the last act of 'Rigoletto' sung with greater spirit and effect.

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